Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Running Start Senior English

**How to approach writing the Cause-Effect Essay**

**What you have accomplished:**

1. Browsed potential topics in SIRS/Global Issues and took notes/summarized three

2. Picked a topic and brainstormed causes/effects from your own prior knowledge

3. Identified if your paper would be cause focused or effect focused

4. Created a rough draft focus statement to guide your research

5. Researched and visited at least five credible sources and took notes

6. Submitted notes for a check-in

**What’s next:**

You will need to synthesize your research and decide what information you will use in your paper and how you will organize it.

**Keep in mind the requirements:**

* MLA style
* 3-5 credible sources
* 12 pt. / Times New Roman font
* 3-4 pages in length (all the way to the end of the third page)
* Introductory paragraph, conclusion paragraph, and two-three body paragraphs
* Do not use “I”

Read over this annotated outline to help you understand your process.

1. Decide on the goal of your writing.

* 1. Are you trying to persuade your audience to accept your view of the issue?

* 1. Are you informing your audience about an issue they may not have thought about?
  2. Are you speculating (offering some possibilities) about some of the aspects of your issue?

1. Introduction
   1. Has a hook/attention grabber related to the topic
   2. Contains background information.
      1. If writing about effects in your paragraphs, then you need to establish that there are causes that are significant enough to explore.
   3. Thesis statement
      1. Identifies whether you are discussing causes or effects of your main idea.
      2. Explains how the paper will be organized (this can be using the categories from your focus statement or you can be more specific in your reasons.)

Ex. Thesis for Causes Essay: Although the destruction of the World Trade Towers has had a lasting effect on our country, it is important to determine the reasons (causes) why the Towers were a target in order to know how to prevent a similar tragedy from happening again.

Ex. Thesis for Effects Essay: An inefficient school system has led to (effects) crippling teachers’ strikes, failing students and wide-spread disrespect for the teaching profession.

Ex. Thesis using focus statement categories: Recent research shows both positive and negative physical, mental, and political effects of cloning, but the question of whether humans should be cloned remains.

1. Body of your paper
   1. You need a clear topic sentence for the paragraph that links back to the main idea of the paper and identifies the subject of the paragraph. Your topic sentences should build on one another by using parallel structure.

*Ex. One result of an inefficient school system, is that teachers are forced into striking which furthers the problems in the schools.*

*Ex. When teachers are forced to strike, one result can be that students struggle with learning the material and fail their assessments.*

*Ex. The striking teachers and failing students can then foster wide-spread disrespect for the teaching profession.*

* 1. Find and organize supporting details (your research). Back up your thesis with relevant and sufficient details that are organized. You will probably want to use at least three researched facts within each paragraph, depending on your topic. You can organize details in the following ways:
  + Chronological. Details are arranged in the order in which the events occurred. You might use this to talk about effects.
  + Order of importance. Details are arranged from least to most important or vice versa.
  + Categorical. Details are arranged by dividing the topic into parts or categories.
  + Emphatic order. Save the most important point for last. This organization is okay if the order of events does not matter.
  1. Expound on your research – use after your statement of facts to explain their importance, make predictions, explain impact, etc. This is the 2/3 of your paper that is your own analysis.
  2. Use appropriate transitions. To blend details smoothly in cause and effect essays, use the transitional words and phrases listed below and on the handout provided.

**For causes**

because, due to, on cause is, another is, since, for, first, second

**For effects**

consequently, as a result, thus, resulted in, one result is, another is, therefore

Be careful not to overstate your case. Unless there is clear evidence that one event is related to another, qualify your statements with phrases such as "It appears that the cause was" or "It seems likely" or "The evidence may indicate" or "Available evidence suggests."

1. Conclusion
   1. Transition and restate thesis statement
   2. Revisit/summarize your evidence succinctly
      1. If writing about causes in your paragraphs, then you need to provide a brief overview of the effects
   3. A call to action – what should your reader do now that you have shared this information? What lasting impression will you leave?
2. You must use parenthetical citations and provide a Works Cited page for this paper.

**Your Task: Create an outline either on notebook paper or on a Word document. Follow the structure of the annotated outline above and label your outline accordingly. Your outline will be worth 10 points.**

**Types of Outlines to Use**

**Roman Numeral Outlining**

I. Introduction

A. Attention grabber

i. It is tempting, and often comforting, to think that humans control their fates.

B. Background Information

**Planning Boxes**

**Webs**

Introduction

Attention grabber –

Background –

Thesis

Introduction

  

Thesis

background

Attention grabber