

COMP

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Cause-
Effect

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1 Understand how to read cause-effect writing
- 2 Make limited and logical cause-effect claims
- 3 Support cause-effect reasoning with relevant, reliable evidence
- 4 Avoid logical fallacies
- 5 Write, revise, and edit a cause-effect essay

Rhetorical Situation For Cause-Effect Writing

- Purpose
 - *Gain an in-depth understanding about the ways specific forces work to get certain results*
 - *Used by writers to explain a phenomenon*
- Audience
 - *Have basic understanding about the topic but seek detailed knowledge of the operating forces*
- Topic
 - *Phenomena requiring complete explanation in terms of their operating forces*



Elements of Cause-Effect Logic

- Reasoning
 - *Thesis identifies the idea*
 - *Essay's body explores and supports the idea*
 - *Primary and secondary causes and effects are distinguished*

Elements of Cause-Effect Logic

- Supporting details
 - *Claims identifying the causes, effects and the link in-between are supported with reliable, detailed evidence*
- Logical analyses
 - *Reasoning is transparent, unified, and free of logical fallacies*



Make Limited and Logical Cause-Effect Claims

- Trina Rys
 - *Analyzes the causes and effects of anorexia nervosa*
 - *Begins with a quotation, questions, and a understandable cause-effect thesis*
 - *Examines the effect of psychological forces on body image*



Make Limited and Logical Cause-Effect Claims

- *Turns to the impact of home environment, with a transition*
- *Argues about the media's influence*
- *Concludes suggesting required changes needed for prevention*



Support Cause-Effect Reasoning With Relevant, Reliable, Evidence

- Dutch Discord, written by Brittany Korver
 - *Analyzes how the increase of Muslim residents in the Netherlands is impacting Dutch culture and raising tension*
 - *Title ascertains the phenomenon*
 - *Gives introduction stating Dutch symbols and ethnic tensions*



Support Cause-Effect Reasoning With Relevant, Reliable, Evidence

- *Refers to history pointing at social changes brought about by immigration*
- *Identifies secondary differences*
- *Voices the concerns*
- *Concludes saying tensions lead to fear and alienation*

Avoid Logical Fallacies

- Steven Pinker
 - *Analyzes how current use of electronic technologies affect the ability to think and process information*
 - *Uses cause-effect thinking*

Writing a Cause-Effect Essay

- Select a topic
 - *Think about categories*
 - *List phenomena relating to each category*
 - *Choose a topic from the list and examine its causes and effects*
- Narrow and research the topic
 - *State the topic and list related causes and effects*
 - *Expand the list by doing preliminary research*

Writing a Cause-Effect Essay

- *Distinguish between primary and secondary causes and effects*
- *Revise the topic addressing primary causes and/or effects linking to a specific phenomenon*
- **Draft and test the thesis**
 - *Introduce the topic with the causes and/or effects that are intended to be discussed*
 - *Limit the argument to provable points*

Writing a Cause-Effect Essay

- Collect and analyze information
 - *Test the analysis to avoid mistaking a coincidence for a cause-effect relationship*
 - *Use the list of logical fallacies to eliminate errors in logic*
- Get organized
 - *Develop an outline that arranges the thesis and argument in a pattern*

Writing a Cause-Effect Essay

- Use the outline to draft
 - *Present the ways in which specific causes lead to specific effects with examples*
 - *Include transitional words to show cause-effect relationships*

Revising a Cause-Effect Essay

- Seek feedback
 - *Involve a peer reviewer or a person from writing center*
- Revise
 - *Checklist to trace and refine an argument*
 - Ideas
 - Organization
 - Voice

Editing a Cause-Effect Essay

- Checklist
 - *Words - Diction, defining technical terms, and use of transitional words and phrases*
 - *Structured sentences*
 - *Correctness - Grammar, punctuation, mechanics, usage, and spelling*
 - *Design needs to enhance the written analysis and clarify the cause-effect reasoning*



Publishing a Cause-Effect Essay

- Share the writing by:
 - *Submitting to an instructor*
 - *Posting on the class's or department's Web site*
 - *Convert it into a presentation*

SUMMARY

- Cause and effect reasoning helps us deal with everyday issues, whether large or small
- In a cause and effect essay, the writer develops the thesis through cause and effect reasoning
 - *Analyzes and explains the causes, effects, or both of a particular phenomenon*

