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HELLO EVERYONE!

The Cause and Effect Essay

A cause and effect essay is different from a narrative or descriptive essay in that the tone should be more reasonable and the presentation factual and believable. The tone should be professional and objective, rather than personal as in the narrative essay. We tend to analyse the causes and/or effects of a certain event in our daily lives. When we, for example, think of the causes of air pollution, we do this in order to better understand the problem and to know how to deal with it and avoid, or at least control, it. The analysis of the effects is also necessary to realize how dangerous the problem is and the far reaching effects it has on human health, earth, quality of air we breathe... etc.

The tone of the essay should be reasonable. You cannot have a humorous or imaginative tone.

It is not necessary, however, to attempt to investigate the causes and effects of a certain problem, a cultural practice or a scientific principle in one essay. This can be done, of course, following certain organization methods which will be discussed shortly. But it is also possible to write a causal essay or effect essay. Obviously this is much easier than combining both causes and effects in an essay.

A cause and effect essay starts by defining the problem, phenomenon or practice to be analysed. The writer must insure that the reader understand what is being discussed and be given a thorough background. The degree of explanation has to do with how complex the issue analysed is. If it is simple, it could be explained in the introduction. But if it is a complex concept or issue, the writer might need to explain it in one paragraph following the introduction in order to give more details.

If there are things that are not clear to the reader, we have to define them and explain them in a separate paragraph, not in the introduction. You add a separate paragraph after the introduction.

The thesis statement serves to highlight the focus of the essay, namely the causes and/or effects of the problem. The thesis statement could, though this is state the causes and effects briefly. One important of the thesis statement to a cause and effect essay is that it should be reasonable objective, and logical. Compare examples below:

1. *It's obvious that the changes in our weather patterns are due to industry's refusal to control their pollution. These business people have bought and paid for the decision makers*

2. The changes in our weather patterns could certainly be due to a number of factors, in particular, the heavy pollution created by our industry and the confusing and contradictory information given by industrial lobbyists on the one hand and environmentalists on the other.

The first example insults the reader's intelligence by "it's obvious", and also deviates from reasonable thinking by accusing businessmen of buying the decision makers. This could be true, but you might find people who do not agree with this. The second example, on the other hand, is more professional and states the point logically, without resorting to groundless accusations.

When the writer says "certainly", it doesn't necessarily mean it is their personal opinion.

Structure and Organisation of the Cause-Effect Essay

A cause and effect essay would, certainly, follow a **causal** order. The issue analysed is examined in terms of causes which would logically lead to certain effects. The introduction, as mentioned above, offers a definition of the problem, which is followed by the causes and/or effects. There are different organisation methods depending on how related the causes or effects are. The most common organisation styles are given below.

1. Block Organisation

Block organization means to group the causes and/or effects in paragraphs which would make them similar to building blocks. When the essay analyses the causes and effects of a problem and follows block organization, the shape of the essay would be as the diagram below shows. An example topic and thesis statement are used in all diagrams to highlight the difference between one method and another.

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Block Organization for a Cause and Effect Essay

Introductory Paragraph

Thesis statement: *While air pollution can be caused by individuals, governments, or industries, the long-term results threaten each of those groups.*

Body Paragraph 1

Cause 1: Individuals are careless in their everyday behaviour.

Cause 2: Governments do not decree and implement strict air pollution legislation.

Cause 3: Big industries do not have filtration mechanisms.

Decree means to make a law

Body Paragraph 2

Effect 1: Air pollution causes deteriorating health conditions for all individuals.

Effect 2: Governments would have to install costly filtration systems everywhere to make the air breathable.

Effect 3: Big industries would find it difficult to market the products in heavily polluted areas.

Conclusion

The above organization style is used, as you can see, when the essay discusses both causes and effects of a problem. The first body paragraph groups the causes of air pollution, and the second body paragraph groups its effects. Below are the organizations methods used when the essay discusses either the causes or the effects alone.

*

Block Organization for a Cause Essay

Introductory Paragraph

Thesis statement: *Air pollution can be caused by individuals, governments, or industries.*

Body Paragraph 1

Cause 1: Individuals are careless in their everyday behavior

Body Paragraph 2

Cause 2: Governments do not decree and implement strict air pollution legislation.

Body Paragraph 3

Cause 3: Big industries do not have filtration mechanisms

Conclusion

On the other hand, if the essay were to discuss the effects of the air pollution problem, the style would be as follows:

*

Block organization for an effect essay

Introductory Paragraph

Thesis statement: *Air pollution can be caused by individuals, governments, or industries.*

Body Paragraph 1

Effect 1: Air pollution causes deteriorating health conditions for app individuals.

Body Paragraph 2

Effect 2: Governments would have to install costly filtration systems everywhere to make the air.

Body Paragraph 3

Effect 3: Big industries would find it difficult to market the products in heavily polluted areas.

Conclusion

An ideal approach to an essay which discusses either the causes or the effects would be to talk briefly about the causes when the essay tackles the effects, and to mention the effects in the introduction when the rest of the essay deals with the causes. So the introduction would present the other side to the coin, as the saying goes.

If the whole essay is talking mostly about the effect, I talk briefly about the causes in the introduction. If the whole essay is mostly about causes, I talk briefly about the effects in the introduction.

If, for example, we take the essay stating the effects of air pollution, an ideal introduction would go as follows.

The world is faced with many crises, not the least of which are the various forms of pollution. And of these, perhaps the most devastating is air pollution. The causes of air pollution seem to stem from the carelessness of individuals, governments, and big industries. The underlying cause for carelessness and lax regulations in all three groups has to do with money. Without strict controls on polluters, today's inconvenience will be tomorrow's crises. Air pollution has for reaching effects on individuals, governments, and industries.

Notice that this introduction draws the reader's attention to the causes of air pollution, while it tackles in depth the effects of this problem.

The paragraphs in an essay dealing with the causes or effects could be

arranged according to more than one order. One common principle is the **order of familiarity** starting with the obvious cause or effect to the less obvious ones. Another way to arrange the paragraphs is to follow **the order of interest**, starting with the less interesting cause/effect and proceeding to the most interesting one(s). This would tempt the reader to read through. And finally there is the **order of importance**, with the (most) important cause/effect coming last. When an essay follows the order of importance, it is said to have a **climax organization**.

If you start with the most important ones, the rest of the essay would be boring. That is why you have to start with the less important, less familiar or less interesting ones first. Then, with the most important, familiar and interesting.

2. Chain Organisation

This other type of organization is only used when the essay tackles both causes and effects. Unlike the block organization where the causes and effects are grouped in different paragraphs, the chain organization method links each cause with its immediate effect in one paragraph. This is the ideal approach when there is a close link between certain causes and effects. The diagram below illustrates this style.

You have to be sure that the cause leads to this effects.

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Chain Organization for a Cause and Effect Essay

Introductory Paragraph

Thesis statement: While air pollution can be caused by individuals, governments, or industries, the long-term results threaten each of those groups.

Body Paragraph 1

Cause 1: Individuals are careless in their everyday behavior.

Effect 1: Air pollution cause deteriorating health conditions for all individuals.

Body Paragraph 2

Cause 2: Governments do not decree and strict air pollution legislation,

Effect 2: Governments would have to install costly filtration systems

everywhere to make the air breathable.

Body Paragraph 3

Cause 3: Big industries do not have filtration mechanisms

Effect 3: Big industries would find it difficult to market the products in heavily polluted areas.

Conclusion

In the conclusion, remind the reader of the thesis. You can restate, summarize and write final comment.

Linking Words of Cause-Effect Essay:

The linking devices could be divided into those used to show the cause of a certain problem or phenomenon, and those used to indicate the consequences. Below is a table showing the most common of these.

Here is a list of linking words for this type of essays:

Function	Transitions	Conjunctions		Prepositions
		Subordinating	Coordinating	
Cause		Because Since As Now that	For	Because of Due to
Effect	As a result Consequently Therefore As a consequence Hence Thus For this reason		So	

Model Essay:

The Desired Look: Nothing but Bones نحيف جدا

By Rebecca Patton

It seems like every little girl dreams of becoming a model. They want to be thin and pretty like the models they see on television and in magazines.

Often the desire becomes an obsession and young girls see "thinness" as being a needed characteristic. For most girls, the teenage years are spent trying to acquire this look. Females are trying diets and are exercising like it is a competition to see who can lose the most weight the quickest. The obsession of many young girls over their appearance or weight has led to a growing number of people who have developed an eating disorder to try to deal with their lack of self-esteem or other related problems.

Eating disorders are a serious health problem. Personal Counseling & Resources says that eating disorders "are characterized by a focus on body shape, weight, fat, food, and perfectionism and by feelings of powerlessness and low self-esteem." Three of the most common eating disorders are anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge eating or compulsive eating disorder. According to Anorexia Nervosa and Related Eating Disorders, a person with anorexia "refuses to maintain normal body weight for age and height" and "weighs 85 percent or less than what is expected for age and height." A person diagnosed with bulimia has several ways of getting rid of the calories such as binge eating, vomiting, laxative misuse, exercising, or fasting. The person might have a normal weight for their age and height unless anorexia is present. The signs of a compulsive eater include eating meals frequently, rapidly, and secretly. This person might also snack and nibble all day long. The compulsive eater tends to have a history of diet failures and may be depressed or obese.

There are many reasons that can contribute to the cause of eating disorders. One of the main reasons seems to be the obsession over every little pound a person is wearing. Sometimes low self-esteem or depression from any number of causes can usher in the eating disorder. Other times compulsive exercising can help shed the pounds but leave the enthused unhealthy looking.

There are other possible causes to this widely known health problem. The media bestows a great deal of beauty and thinness on television and magazines that are viewed by many people daily. Everyone has the desire to look like the actors and actresses do but, in reality, it just will not happen for most of us. Abuse, whether it be physical, emotional, or sexual, can also contribute to the development of an eating disorder. Such abuse to victims can leave them with a lack of trust and low self-esteem. An unfavorable relationship a person has with others is also a contributing factor to disordered eating habits. The world is so competitive that any mention from

parents, siblings, peers, significant others, or co-workers about a person's weight or appearance can lead to the onset of an eating disorder.

There really is no single reason that a person acquires an eating disorder. Many factors are considered when making a diagnosis for a person with this problem. Causes like the ones mentioned above play such an important role in eating disorders. Is it really so important that in order to look like the super models people are willing to give up food and starve themselves to death for a little satisfaction on the outside? The look of a person on the inside is what really matters.

- Self-esteem means تقدير الذات
- bulimia nervosa الشره المرضي
- compulsive قهري
- Misuse سوء استخدام
- Bestows means to give something
- Abuse means to hurt someone effectively
- anorexia nervosa فقدان الشهية المرضي
- binge eating اضطراب الشره
- obese السمنة أو البدانة
- Usher means contribute to
- Onset means the beginning

The desired look: Nothing but bones. What do they mean by this title?

They think that being skinny is the ideal beauty, which is not.

The purpose of the colon here is to explain.

Discussion Questions:

1. Find the thesis statement. Does it state the main topic of the essay clearly?

The obsession of many young girls over their appearance or weight has led to a growing number of people who have developed an eating disorder to try to deal with their lack of self-esteem or other related problems.

Correct

2 What is the function of paragraph two? Do you think this is necessary for the essay?

Explaining the terms that the reader does not know. Yes, it is necessary.

30 What does the essay discuss: the causes or effects of eating disorders? The causes of eating disorders.

4. What does the introduction state: the causes or the effects of

the problem? Is this unusual? One cause which is the look.

5. Examine the organization method. Which style does it adopt?
Explain Block organization of causes.

6. How does the writer arrange the causes of the problem? What is the order used? Do you think this is the best possible choice? If not, what would you suggest? Block organization. The writer started with the familiar one which is the look. Then the unfamiliar ones.

7. Can you find linking words for cause or effect in this essay? If yes, underline them. If no, what method does the writer follow to make the essay cohesive? We do not have a lot of linking words.

Read the following essay then answer the questions below.

Rebels

The anthropologist Margaret Mead is well known for her studies of adolescents in various societies, particularly primitive ones. She believes that the transition from child to adult does not always have to be a difficult one. Nevertheless, it seems to be full of problems in many western societies. In the United States, for example, going through the teenage years is challenging for both teenagers and their parents. We can take comfort, however, in the fact that there are many reasons that teenagers rebel against their parents and in the fact that there are also positive effects.

Probably the most primitive reason for teenage rebelliousness is physical in nature. At about the beginning of adolescence, children are undergoing profound hormonal undergoing changes as their bodies go through puberty. Their bodies are telling them that they are no longer children, and yet their parents are still treating them as children. Psychologically, they need to distance themselves from their parents to establish themselves as adults, and this psychological distance is accompanied by physical distance. At the same time, teenagers want to become more like their friends, so everything that has to do with their parents must be avoided. In fact, often parents represent "the establishment" and, in the extreme, all the evil that it has created in the world.

There do seem to be benefits to this difficult time, however. While teenagers are going through this rebellious period, they are also learning to think for themselves and to evaluate the world around them. They are

becoming socialized and independent from their families. They are forming relationships outside the family, which is very important if they are going to survive as individuals. The experimentation of this period is also important as long as it is not taken to extremes. By experimenting, teenagers gain experience and the confidence that comes with it. Ultimately, the teenager reaches adulthood with the social and psychological strength it takes to become a productive member of society.

In conclusion, despite the difficulty and awkwardness of adolescence, it is a necessary step in creating responsible, thinking adults. In addition, while teenagers and parents alike may not think that they will get through it, most do. In fact, they are usually better and stronger people because of it.

- Rebel تمرد
- Adolescent means teenagers
- Puberty سن البلوغ
- Anthropologist is a person who studies the behavior of humans
- Establishment: the dominant group
- Primitive بدائي
- Profound عميق

Questions:

1. Find the thesis statement, analyse it and evaluate it.

We can take comfort, however, in the fact that there are many reasons that teenagers rebel against their parents and in the fact that there are also positive effects.

2. What kind of introduction do we have here? Does it introduce the topic in a good way?

We can say *from general to specific*, since it talks about early childhood and the leap we have between childhood and early adulthood.

3. What does the essay discuss: the causes or the effects of adolescent rebelliousness? Circle any causes, and box any effects.

Both causes and effects

4. What pattern of organization does the essay follow?

Explain.

It tackles both the causes and the effects in two separate paragraphs. That is why it is a **block organization method** of a cause and effect essay.

5. Is the essay well organized? What makes it so?

Yes.

6. What kind of evidence does the writer use to support the thesis?

Examples or personal experiences. And because I do not have statistics or facts here, I have examples.

7. Examine the two body paragraphs. Are there any linking words of cause and effect used? Underline them.

Nevertheless, at the same time, for example, yet, while.

8. What kind of conclusion does the writer use to end the essay?

A restatement of the thesis statement and a final comment.

Thank You

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Wish you all the best

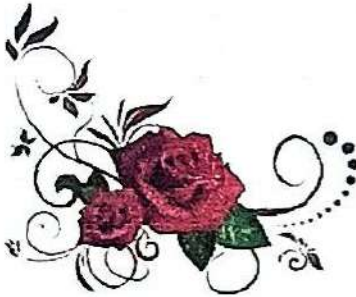


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