

Smart, Creative and Entrepreneurial



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ESSAY WRITING

SRI LESTARI, MA

SESSION 9

CAUSE AND EFFECT ESSAY: DRAFTING



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Students are able to use cause-effect signal words in an essay
- By the end of this session, students are able to write a first draft of a cause and effect essay.

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CAUSE AND EFFECT TRANSITIONS SIGNALS

- Cause and effect structure words are transition signals which show the cause and effect relationships.
- It is important to be clear which is the cause (or reason) and which is the effect (or result), and to use the correct transition word or phrase.
- Remember that a cause happens *first*, and the effect happens *later*.

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CAUSE AND EFFECT TRANSITIONS SIGNALS

- Below are some common cause and effect structure words. X is used to indicate a cause, while Y is used to indicate the effect.

Cause

- ▶ The first cause of (Y) is (X)
- ▶ The next reason is (X)
- ▶ Because of (X), (Y)
- ▶ As a result of (X), (Y)
- ▶ As a consequence of (X), (Y)
- ▶ because/since/as (X)
- ▶ to result from (X)
- ▶ (X) results in (Y)
- ▶ to be the result of (X)
- ▶ (Y) is due to (X)
- ▶ Owing to (X), (Y)
- ▶ (Y) is because of (X)
- ▶ (Y) is the effect of (X)
- ▶ (Y) is the consequence of (X)

Effect

- ▶ The first effect of (X) is (Y)
- ▶ Another result of (X) is (Y)
- ▶ As a result, (Y)
- ▶ As a consequence, (Y)
- ▶ Consequently (Y)
- ▶ Therefore, (Y)
- ▶ Thus (Y)
- ▶ Hence (Y)
- ▶ (X) results in (Y)
- ▶ (X) causes (Y)
- ▶ (X) has an effect on (Y)
- ▶ (X) affects (Y)
- ▶ (X) is one of the causes of (Y)
- ▶ (X) is the reason for (Y)

CAUSE AND EFFECT TRANSITIONS SIGNALS

For EXAMPLE:

- Worsening pollution levels in cities are **due to** the increased use of cars.
- **Because of** the increased use of cars, pollution levels in cities are worsening.
- **As a result of** the increased use of cars, pollution levels in cities are worsening.
- **The effect of** the increased use of cars is a worsening of pollution levels in cities.
- Cars are used increasingly for urban transport. **As a consequence**, pollution levels in cities are worsening.
- Increased use of cars for urban transport adversely **affects** pollution levels in cities.
- Increased use of cars for urban transport **is one of the causes of** worsening pollution levels in cities.

CAUSE SIGNAL WORDS

Coordinators

<p>for</p>	<p>Bison were indispensable to the Native American tribes, for this one animal provided them with nearly everything they needed for survival: meat, clothing, shelter, tools, and weapons.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> When used in this way, <i>for</i> has the same meaning as <i>because</i>. However, you MUST use a comma in front of <i>for</i>, and you MUST NOT use a comma in front of <i>because</i>.</p>
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Subordinators

<p>because since as</p>	<p>Bison were indispensable to the Native American tribes because/since/as this one animal provided them with nearly everything they needed for survival: meat, clothing, shelter, tools, and weapons.</p>
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Others

<p>to result from to be the result of</p> <p>due to because of</p> <p>the effect of the consequence of</p> <p>as a result of as a consequence of</p>	<p>The bison's near extinction resulted from/was the result of loss of habitat and overhunting.</p> <p>Bison nearly became extinct due to/because of loss of habitat and overhunting.</p> <p>One effect of/consequence of westward expansion was the destruction of habitat for the bison.</p> <p>The areas in which bison could roam freely shrank as a result of/as a consequence of the westward expansion of the 1800s.</p>
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EXERCISE 1

- ***Underline the part of the sentence that states a cause***
 - ***Circle the word or words that introduce the cause***
1. Hollywood movies are known for their special effects because US audiences seem to demand them.
 2. Smog results from chemical pollutants being trapped under a layer of warm air.
 3. Little is known about life on the ocean floor, for scientists have only recently developed the technology to explore it.
 4. Holes are created in the protective ozone layer of the stratosphere as a result of the burning of fossils fuels.
 5. War, famine, and ethnic violence have caused a flood of refugees in the past 50 years.

EFFECT SIGNALWORDS

Transition Words and Phrases

as a result
as a consequence
therefore
thus
consequently
hence

Workers building the new transcontinental railroad needed meat; **as a result/as a consequence/therefore/thus/consequently/hence**, hunters killed bison by the thousands.

Note: Notice the difference between *as a result* and *as a result of*. *As a result* is followed by a full sentence (independent clause) and introduces an effect. *As a result of* is followed by a noun phrase and introduces a clause.

Coordinators

so

Native Americans began trading bison skins to the settlers for steel knives and guns, **so** they began killing bison in larger numbers.

Others

to result in
to cause

Loss of habitat and overhunting **resulted in/caused** the near extinction of bison.

to have an effect on
to affect

The reduced numbers of bison **had a terrible effect on/affected** the lives of the Native Americans who had depended on them for survival.

the cause of
the reason for

The rescue of the bison from near extinction is **a cause of/a reason for** celebration.

thereby

The 85 bison that survived were given refuge in Yellowstone National Park in 1892, **thereby** saving this species from total extinction.

Note: *Thereby* is most frequently used in front of *-ing* phrases.

EXERCISE 2

- ***Underline the part of the sentence that states an effect***
 - ***Circle the word or words that introduce the effect***
1. However, electric cars are reliable, economical, and nonpolluting; therefore, the government is spending millions of dollars to improve their technology.
 2. His patient diplomacy resulted in the successful negotiation of a peace treaty.
 3. Cold water is denser than warm water and will therefore sink.
 4. Freshwater is less dense than salt water, so it tends to float on the surface of a body of salt water.
 5. The cause of the patient's rapid recovery was the excellent care he received from his doctor.

THE FUTURE WITH 'WILL'

The Future with *Will*

In a cause and effect essay, you will need to discuss future effects of a cause or set of causes. The modal *will* is often used to talk about the future.

- Use *will* to make predictions. You can also use adverbs like *probably* or *certainly* with *will* to express a degree of certainty.

He **will win** the race.

He **will probably be** wealthy one day.

- *Will* is followed by the base form of the verb.
- Use the same form of *will* with any subject.

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USING 'WILL' WITH 'SO THAT'

Using *Will* with *So That*

- The future with *will* can also be used with the logical connector *so that*. In this type of sentence, the main clause uses the simple present and states the cause. It is followed by *so that* and a second main clause with *will*.

main clause (present)

Students work hard in school

so that

time clause (future)

they **will be** successful.

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FUTURE POSSIBILITY WITH 'IF CLAUSES'

Expressing Future Possibility With *If* Clauses

Sentences with an *if* clause show a cause-and-effect relationship. The *if* clause introduces a possible situation (the cause). The main clause talks about the possible result (the effect) of the situation.

- Use the present tense in the *if* clause and *will* in the main clause.

cause

effect

If X happens, Y **will happen**, too.

- The cause and effect clauses can come in either order. When the *if* clause comes first, it is followed by a comma.

if clause

main clause

If Pedro plays,

we **will win** the game.

main clause

if clause

We **will win** the game

if Pedro plays.

- ⚠ Do not use *will* in the *if* clause.

If the price of oil **will** increase, people will drive less. (INCORRECT)

If the price of oil increases, people will drive less.

EXERCISE

- Use the following cause/effect transition words to complete the sentence below. Some words maybe used more than once.

for example	so	consequently	therefore	since	result in
result in	then	as a result	lead to	led to	

1. If you are caught driving too fast, you will get a speeding ticket.
2. High fuel costs higher food prices and the loss of many jobs.
3. It was raining and I missed my bus;, I got wet and missed my test.
4. A woman's use of alcohol during pregnancy can Birth defects in an unborn child.
5. John ate too fast., he had a stomachache.
6. I was doing some really difficult homework., a cake in the oven burned.
7. They have been so happy ... they won the first prize in the competition.

EXERCISE

8. Some water pipes under the house broke this morning, We had no water for hours.
9. Some people built their houses very close to the beach., they have had to spend a lot of money trying to protect them from the sea during storms.
10. Larry's car stereo was on so loud, I could see his mouth moving, but I had no idea what he was saying.
11. David is very poor football player; He should be kicked off the team.
12. Your teeth are badly decayed, They will have to be removed.
13. Many families take to the roads in July and August, when they traditionally go on vacation., oil company raise the price of gasoline during these months.
14. Exercising provides many positive health benefits for adults. ..., adults who exercise tend to have a lower incidence of heart disease attacks than adults who do not exercise.
15. Job opportunities The movement of people from the countryside to the cities.

DRAFTING A CAUSE AND EFFECT ESSAY

- After making an outline and learning transition signal words of a cause and effect essay, you are to **write your draft**.
- **Review your outline.** Then **write the first draft of a four-paragraph essay on the topic you chose.**
- There might be three types of cause and effect essay:
 - Many causes, one effect
 - One cause, many effects
 - Chains of causes and effects
- **Decide the topic.** When **selecting topics** for this type of essay, a good writer should consider relevant questions such as:
 - What is the end effect?
 - Is there one primary effect, or are there several effects?
 - Is there one primary cause, or are there several causes?

DRAFTING A CAUSE AND EFFECT ESSAY

- After you selected a topic, determine whether you will **focus** more on the causes of the issue or the effects of it.
- Selecting topic will help you develop **supporting details** for your essay, which is an important step in constructing a solid essay.
- **Strong thesis statement** for cause and effect essays indicates whether the essay focuses on causes or on effects. Sometimes the thesis statement uses the words *cause(s)* or *effects(s)*, but this is not necessary if either the cause or the effect is implied in the statement.

Focus	Example thesis statement
on causes	<p>Many customers prefer to shop online for three important reasons.</p> <p>The increase in obesity in our country is due to food commercials, cheap fast food, and video games.</p>
on effects	<p>This essay will discuss the effects of watching too much TV on children's family life, interpersonal skills, and school life.</p> <p>Most people are not aware of the positive effects of simply walking for 20 to 30 minutes per day.</p>

DRAFTING A CAUSE AND EFFECT ESSAY

Cause/Effect Structure

Introduction

Paraphrase the question

Introduce the specific topics that will be discussed in the main body paragraphs.

Main Body Paragraph 1

Introduce the cause (topic sentence)

Explain/give detail

Example

Main Body Paragraph 2

Introduce the effect (topic sentence)

Explain/give detail

Example

Conclusion

Summary of the main points

What you think is most important about this topic / give a recommendation

DRAFTING A CAUSE AND EFFECT ESSAY: AN EXAMPLE

INTRODUCTION:

Nowadays, people are overweight because of their increasing consumption of unhealthy food, a lack of physical activity, and their refusal to work with fitness trainers.

BODY:

Causes:

1. People are eating a lot of unhealthy food that is cheap, easy-to-consume and contains a lot of calories. (Include statistics: how many people regularly consume unhealthy food.)

2. People don't move enough. Causes: inactive jobs, laziness, and not enough information about the consequences.

3. People don't want to visit a specialist. If they did, they would be informed about the causes of obesity and offered a plan to solve the problem.

Effect: Until those problems are solved, people will become more and more obese. (Include a prognosis about obesity rates over the next decade.)

CONCLUSION:

Junk food, a lack of physical activity, and a refusal to visit a doctor are the three leading causes of obesity. We hope that the situation will change. (Include some examples of what each person can do about the problem)

DRAFTING A CAUSE AND EFFECT ESSAY

- After writing your draft, **check it** using the following checklist:
 - Does the essay have min. four paragraphs?
 - Does the introduction include background information?
 - Do the connecting sentences describe the event or situation that is the result of the causes?
 - Is there a thesis statement that focuses the essay? Does it mention two causes that lead to the situation?
 - Does each body paragraphs have a topic sentence that states one cause mentioned in the thesis statement?
 - Does supporting sentences in each body paragraph explain the cause in the topic sentence of that paragraph?
 - Does the conclusion summarize the causes and comment on them?

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THANK YOU

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