





## Cause and Effect

The following are things to keep in mind when writing a cause-and-effect essay

Cause-and-effect essays examine causes, describe effects, or do both.

Causes precede effects, but do not assume that because event A precedes event B, event A has caused event B.

Many causes can be responsible for one effect. In the same way, one cause can lead to many effects.

Complex situations involve numerous causes and many different effects.

The \_\_\_\_\_ – is always more important than the others, the \_\_\_\_\_

An \_\_\_\_\_ closely precedes an effect. A \_\_\_\_\_ is less obvious and involves something in the past or far away.

Sometimes an effect can also be a cause. This is true in a \_\_\_\_\_, where A causes B, B causes C, C causes D, and so on.

### Formulating a thesis

Identify the relationship among the specific causes or effects you will discuss. This thesis statement should tell your readers three things: the issues you plan to consider, the position you will take, and whether your emphasis is on causes, effects, or both.

### Arranging causes and effects

There are several options when deciding on the sequence in which you will present causes or effects:

- Present causes or effects in chronologically order;
- Introduce main cause first and then contributory causes or vice versa;
- Stress positive consequences by summarizing the negative ones first or vice versa;
- Begin by dismissing any events that were not causes and then explain what the real causes were; or
- Begin with most obvious causes or effect and move on to more subtle factors – and then to your analysis and conclusion.

### Transitions

Transitions are very important to cause-and-effect essays. Remember that words such as \_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_ indicate a \_\_\_\_\_ (WHY something happened) while words such as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ indicate a \_\_\_\_\_ (WHEN something happened). Do not confuse these.

## Compare/Contrast

The following are things to keep in mind when writing a compare/contrast essay

Comparison is used to show similarities, while contrast shows differences. A compare/contrast essay is used to make sense of large amounts of information, to weight the benefits and drawbacks of different options, to formulate an opinion of a topic to which there are two sides, and to evaluate the truth of conflicting views.

In order to write a meaningful compare/contrast essay, a basis for comparison must exist; that is, for the comparison and/or contrast to be justified, the things being compared must have enough in common.

NOTE: make sure that the elements are the same (or at least similar) for each category.

RIGHT		WRONG	
Minor characters	Minor Characters	Minor Characters	Author's life
Major characters	Major Characters	Major Characters	Plot
Themes	Themes	Themes	Symbolism

### Formulating a thesis

Your thesis should identify the subjects to be compared and contrasted as well as the point you will make about them. It should also indicate whether you will concentrate on similarities, differences, or both.

### Structuring a compare/contrast essay

Subject-by-subject: you essentially write a separate essay for each subject, but you discuss the same points for both subjects. Arrange points in a logical order – such as by increasing significance. This strategy is most appropriate for short, uncomplicated papers.

Point-by-point: you make a point about one subject and then follow it with a comparable point about the other. This strategy is useful for longer, more complicated essays in which you discuss many different points. NOTE: in order to avoid falling into a monotonous, back-and-forth movement between points, vary your sentence structure as you move from point to point and use clear transitions.

### Transitions

Transitions supply readers with clear signals and identify individual similarities and differences. Use transitions when comparing. Use

transitions when contrasting.

## Exemplification

The following are things to keep in mind when writing an exemplification essay

Exemplification uses one or more particular cases, or examples, to illustrate or explain a general point or an abstract concept.

## Argumentation

The following are things to keep in mind when writing an argumentative essay

Argumentation is a process of reasoning that asserts the soundness of a debatable position, belief, or conclusion. Argumentation takes a stand

## Recognizing and avoiding fallacies

Fallacies are illogical statements that may sound reasonable or true, but are actually deceptive and