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Cause and effect literary definition

Cause and effect is something everyone learns in elementary school. There are different kinds of cause and effect writings – sentences and essays. If you need more help with other basic writing skills, try this paragraph and essay writing class. Below, you will find definitions of both types of cause and effect writings as well as examples of each. The section regarding arguments will also include sample topics for your cause and effect writings. Cause and Effect Sentences Sentences built using cause and effect usually involve an action that is making something happen and the result of that action. You can usually find sentences built this way by key words and phrases they use: so, since, as a result of, because, therefore. It's also important to note that the cause is usually written before the effect is, but there are rare cases when the effect will be written first. You should realize, however, that no matter what order you present cause and effect in with your sentences, you cannot have an effect happen before a cause. When writing a cause and effect argument, you will be writing many cause and effect sentences. To help you better understand how these sentences are created, here are a few examples that have been dissected to show the separate cause and effect parts. If you want to practice cause and effect, try these exercises from StudyZone. Example 1: It had begun to rain so Sally and Jake had to run inside. Cause: It had begun to rain. Effect: Sally and Jake had to run inside. Key word: so Example 2: Since it was so chilly outside, Benjamin built up a big fire in his fireplace. Cause: It was so chilly outside. Effect: Benjamin built up a big fire in his fireplace. Key word: Since Example 3: Elphaba was getting very angry and frustrated because none of her good deeds were being recognized as good. Cause: Elphaba was getting very angry and frustrated. Effect: None of her good deeds were being recognized as good. Key word: because Example 4: A great twister picked up Auntie Em's house, and as a result, Dorothy and Toto ended up in the wonderful world of Oz. Cause: A great twister picked up Auntie Em's house. Effect: Dorothy and Toto ended up in the wonderful world of Oz. Key word: as a result Example 5: We went to the grocery store because we needed sour cream, eggs, and milk. Cause: We needed sour cream, eggs, and milk. Effect: We went to the grocery store. Key word: because This last example shows the effect being written before the cause. However, you will notice that they only went to the store because they needed something. They had a cause to go to the store. Here's an example of a sentence written with an effect happening before a cause. You should see why it's important that the cause always occur first. Bad Example: Jeremy was sick because Sally went to school the next day with a cold. Cause: Sally went to school the next day with a cold. Effect: Jeremy was sick today? How can Jeremy be sick when the cause of his sickness is Sally's cold that he does not actually catch until the next day? Unless Jeremy is a time traveler, there is little chance that he is sick from something that will happen to him in the future. It is in your best interest to avoid sentences like the one above as they will make your argument invalid. If you need more help on writing, try learning plain writing. Cause and Effect Essays There are three kinds of cause and effect essays that can be written, but they are all very similar in written structure. The first is a cause/effect essay that explains the why or how of something happening and what resulted from it. The second kind is a cause essay, which usually discusses the many different reasons that something happened. In this kind of essay, there are many causes but only one effect. The final type of essay is an effect essay. An effect essay would focus on the many different happenings after some event occurs. There is only one cause, but there are many effects. If you are writing one of these essays for college, you can get further help by trying a college writing class. Here are example topics for each of the three essays. Cause/Effect Topics: causes and effects of global warming causes and effects of insomnia and other sleeping disorders causes and effects of earthquakes causes and effects of divorce on families causes and effects of low economic standing Cause Topics: causes of depression in adults or children causes behind selecting a college major causes of sibling rivalry causes of poverty in a selected nation causes of homelessness causes of obesity in children or adults causes of cyber bullying causes of a social media site losing popularity causes of some schools failing to educate students properly causes of a specific war causes of a noteworthy event Effect Topics: effects of abortion on women effects of an unhealthy diet effects of social media on life effects of technology on family time effects of leadership within a group effects of drug usage effects of industrialization effects of family vacations effects of violent video games effects of standardized testing effects of labels on students effects of parent involvement in schools This is just a short list of topics that are out there. You can write your essay on practically anything. If you're looking for more topics, try this list of 40 writing topics. Blog writers can use cause and effect as well for their blog posts. Depending on the content of your blog, you can even use some of the topics listed above. However, you are not going to write as someone writing a cause and effect essay would. People do not read blog posts that are ten pages long. If you are a blog writer, try this blog writing workshop for more help. Page Last Updated: February 2020 _Miscellaneous UdemY Editor _Miscellaneous UdemY Editor _Miscellaneous UdemY Editor _Miscellaneous UdemY Editor _Miscellaneous UdemY Editor _Miscellaneous UdemY Editor _Miscellaneous UdemY Editor _Miscellaneous UdemY Editor _Miscellaneous UdemY Editor Human beings often try to find root causes of things, happenings and phenomena. This research leads to the discovery of effects, too. It is because human beings always desire to understand reasons for things, and why they happen. A composition written to find out reasons and results is called a cause and effect essay. It makes discovery of the causes of something and resultantly finds out effects.Signal Words for Cause and Effect EssaysCause and effect uses special words for causes, effects, and predictions, such as led to, because, cause, reason, explanation, so etc. However, for effects, the words most commonly used are therefore, as a result, consequently, thus, then, and thanks to. For predictions, the most commonly used words are if, when, after, as soon as, may, might, or possible.Examples of Cause and Effect Essay in LiteratureExample #1: Why We Crave Horror Movies (by Stephen King)"I think that we're all mentally ill; those of us outside the asylums only hide it a little better—and maybe not all that much better, after all. We've all known people who talk to themselves, people who sometimes squinch their faces into horrible grimaces when they believe no one is watching, people who have some hysterical fear—of snakes, the dark, the tight place, the long drop ... and, of course, those final worms and grubs that are waiting so patiently underground.When we pay our four or five bucks and seat ourselves at tenth-row center in a theater showing a horror movie, we are daring the nightmare.Why? Some of the reasons are simple and obvious. To show that we can, that we are not afraid, that we can ride this roller coaster. Which is not to say that a really good horror movie may not surprise a scream out of us at some point, the way we may scream when the roller coaster twists through a complete 360 or plows through a lake at the bottom of the drop. And horror movies, like roller coasters, have always been the special province of the young; by the time one turns 40 or 50, one's appetite for double twists or 360-degree loops may be considerably depleted."Stephen King tells the reasons people like to watch something horrible or terrible. This passage sheds light on those reasons.Example #2: Innocents Afield (by Buzz Bissinger)"We are clinging to the supposed virtues of high school athletics with particular zeal. Everybody knows that pro sports is too far gone (take your pick of recent scandals). Everybody knows that college sports is too far gone (take your pick of recent scandals). But still there's high school sports, still the classic battle of one rival against the other in shaggy glory, what James Jones described in From Here to Eternity as "the magnificent foolishness of youth as if the whole of life depended on this game." A half-century later, the depiction of noble sacrifice at the high school level still forms our baseline, gives us hope that something in sports is still unsullied, restores our faith in the family values fad that has overtaken the low-carb diet." This passage sheds light on the reasons that school sports are necessary. The whole essay revolves around the games, reasons for the games, and their effects.Example #3: Black Men and Public Space (by Brent Staples)"My first victim was a woman—white, well dressed, probably in her early twenties. I came upon her late one evening on a deserted street in Hyde Park, a relatively affluent neighborhood in an otherwise mean, impoverished section of Chicago. As I swung onto the avenue behind her, there seemed to be a discreet, uninflammatroy distance between us. Not so. She cast back a worried glance. To her, the youngish black man—a broad six feet two inches with a beard and billowing hair, both hands shoved into the pockets of a bulky military jacket—seemed menacingly close. After a few more quick glimpses, she picked up her pace and was soon running in earnest. Within seconds she disappeared into a cross street."This passage describes the cause of a woman's fear in a narrative, as well as the effect of her fear. As it is part of a long essay, the next passage sheds light on the effects on women.Function of Cause and Effect EssayA cause and effect essay explains the real situation to readers. Readers understand what lies behind a happening, and how it effects, or how it will impact, human beings. Mostly, such essays are used for scientific topics. It is because these essays explore the nature of things, and their likely effects on us, or the things around us. Determine the purpose and structure of cause and effect in writing. Understand how to write a cause-and-effect essay. It is often considered human nature to ask, "why?" and "how?" We want to know how our child got sick so we can better prevent it from happening in the future, or why our colleague a pay raise because we want one as well. We want to know how much money we will save over the long term if we buy a hybrid car. These examples identify only a few of the relationships we think about in our lives, but each shows the importance of understanding cause and effect. A cause is something that produces an event or condition; an effect is what results from an event or condition. The purpose of the cause-and-effect essay is to determine how various phenomena relate in terms of origins and results. Sometimes the connection between cause and effect is clear, but often determining the exact relationship between the two is very difficult. For example, the following effects of a cold may be easily identifiable: a sore throat, runny nose, and a cough. But determining the cause of the sickness can be far more difficult. A number of causes are possible, and to complicate matters, these possible causes could have combined to cause the sickness. That is, more than one cause may be responsible for any given effect. Therefore, cause-and-effect discussions are often complicated and frequently lead to debates and arguments. Use the complex nature of cause and effect to your advantage. Often it is not necessary, or even possible, to find the exact cause of an event or to name the exact effect. So, when formulating a thesis, you can claim one of a number of causes or effects to be the primary, or main, cause or effect. As soon as you claim that one cause or one effect is more crucial than the others, you have developed a thesis. The cause-and-effect essay opens with a general introduction to the topic, which then leads to a thesis that states the main cause, main effect, or various causes and effects of a condition or event. The cause-and-effect essay can be organized in one of the following two primary ways: Start with the cause and then talk about the effects. Start with the effect and then talk about the causes. For example, if your essay were on childhood obesity, you could start by talking about the effect of childhood obesity and then discuss the cause or you could start the same essay by talking about the cause of childhood obesity and then move to the effect. Regardless of which structure you choose, be sure to explain each element of the essay fully and completely. Explaining complex relationships requires the full use of evidence, such as scientific studies, expert testimony, statistics, and anecdotes. Because cause-and-effect essays determine how phenomena are linked, they make frequent use of certain words and phrases that denote such linkage. See Table 10.4 "Phrases of Causation" for examples of such terms. Table 10.4 Phrases of Causation as a result consequently because due to hence since thus therefore The conclusion should wrap up the discussion and reinforce the thesis, leaving the reader with a clear understanding of the relationship that was analyzed. Be careful of resorting to empty speculation. In writing, speculation amounts to unsubstantiated guessing. Writers are particularly prone to such trappings in cause-and-effect arguments due to the complex nature of finding links between phenomena. Be sure to have clear evidence to support the claims that you make. Choose an event or condition that you think has an interesting cause-and-effect relationship. Introduce your topic in an engaging way. End your introduction with a thesis that states the main cause, the main effect, or both. Organize your essay by starting with either the cause-then-effect structure or the effect-then-cause structure. Within each section, you should clearly explain and support the causes and effects using a full range of evidence. If you are writing about multiple causes or multiple effects, you may choose to sequence either in terms of order of importance. In other words, order the causes from least to most important (or vice versa), or order the effects from least important to most important (or vice versa). Use the phrases of causation when trying to forge connections between various events or conditions. This will help organize your ideas and orient the reader. End your essay with a conclusion that summarizes your main points and reinforces your thesis. See Chapter 15 "Readings: Examples of Essays" to read a sample cause-and-effect essay. The purpose of the cause-and-effect essay is to determine how various phenomena are related. The thesis states what the writer sees as the main cause, main effect, or various causes and effects of a condition or event. The cause-and-effect essay can be organized in one of these two primary ways: Start with the cause and then talk about the effect. Start with the effect and then talk about the cause. Strong evidence is particularly important in the cause-and-effect essay due to the complexity of determining connections between phenomena. Phrases of causation are helpful in signaling links between various elements in the essay.

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