

ESSAY GUIDELINES

THE CAUSE ESSAY



Cause essay: Introduction

Sentence	Goal	How
1	Attract reader's attention	Short anecdote, quotation, fact, startling statement
	Introduce general topic	Use anecdote, quotation, etc. related to general topic
2	Link idea in opening sentence to idea of effects in the background	Use transitional sentence
3-6	Give background information	Provide information of effects of topic, moving from the general to the specific
7	Link idea of effects to the specific topic in thesis sentence	Use transitional sentence
8	Inform reader of specific topic, pattern of development and number of categories/aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Specific topic</u> + <i>is the result of several factors.</i>• <u>Specific topic</u> + <i>is caused by/is the result of + three parallel direct causes.</i>• <u>Three parallel direct causes</u> + <i>bring about/cause/lead to/contribute to/give rise to/are the reason for/are responsible for/lead to/produce/result in + specific topic.</i>

Sample introduction: Brainstorming

Causes

- No trains, trams, buses, metro, etc. (poor public transport infrastructure)
- Too many taxis
- Everybody can afford a car due to rapid economic growth
- Road building cannot keep up
- Rapid population growth
- High temperatures
- Children cannot walk to school

Effects

- Higher levels of anger and frustration
- More air pollution due to emissions
- Increased noise pollution
- More wasted time, delays at work and at school
- Less pleasant environment
- Higher motoring costs (wasted fuel)

Sample introduction

Thesis sentence patterns

- Specific topic + *is the result of several factors.*
- Specific topic + *is caused by/is the result of* + three parallel direct causes.
- Three parallel direct causes + *bring about/cause/lead to/contribute to/give rise to/are the reason for/are responsible for/lead to/produce/result in* + specific topic.

(The original eight sentences in the introduction have been revised so that there are now five concise sentences.)

Kuwait is a developed country, but it faces severe traffic problems. Thirty years ago there were only a handful of cars . Today, the streets are bumper-to-bumper with modern luxury vehicles, taxis and trucks. At nearly any given time of the day or night, traffic lanes on the nation's major motorways are clogged with long lines of vehicles emitting carbon dioxide and whose drivers vent their frustration by repeatedly honking their horns. In fact, traffic congestion is a serious problem in Kuwait though it is one of the most highly developed countries in the world with a modern transport infrastructure. Kuwait's gridlock is the result of several factors.

Writing the body paragraph

1. Decide on most important cause and write topic sentence, along with appropriate transition
2. Explain the cause
3. Back up the explanation of the cause with paraphrase of evidence from expert, citing the author's name and date of publication of article
4. Explain supporting evidence from expert
5. Back up with an example and/or statistic
6. Explain example and/or statistic
7. Complete the paragraph's idea

Sample body paragraph

Transitions indicating order of causes

- Transitions for first cause – *first, initial, primary*
- Transitions for subsequent cause/sub-point – *additional, additionally, furthermore, in addition, moreover, another, next, second, still another*
- Transitions for third cause/sub-point – *final, finally, lastly, last* (These are used only with the last main point or sub-point.)

The value of independence is the primary reason why young and old people become isolated from each other. Being independent is an important quality of life for most Americans. Since childhood, people have been taught to be independent. The notion continues through their lives until they become old. Margaret Mead (1971), an American anthropologist, writes in her article “Grandparents Have Copped Out” that old people do not want to be a burden to their children, so they try to live their lives independently. That is, old people do not want to interfere with their children’s lives. Young people also, believe their lives will be better without their parents as constant companions. Consequently, a desire for independence is behind the isolation of the generations.

Conclusion

1. Topic sentence

- Start with a transition to indicate this is the conclusion – *As can be seen, In brief, In closing, In conclusion, To summarize, It is clear that . . .*
- Add an inference

As can be seen, fast food – for a variety of reasons – has contributed to one of the most significant challenges facing America today: the rising rates of childhood obesity.


2. Explain reason for inference

- The reasons must be based on the causes discussed in the body of the paper.
- They must be directly related to the inference.

While there are many factors that contribute to the problem, studies indicate that children's use of the media is an important piece of the puzzle. Most large national studies indicate that children who spend more time with media are more likely to choose high-calorie items on fast food menus than their peers who spend less time with media.

3. Concluding sentence

End with a sentence that echoes back to introduction and does not introduce a new topic.
Consequently, all too often these children's fast food choices lead to developing diet-induced diabetes just as John's choices did.



As can be seen, fast food – for a variety of reasons – has contributed to one of the most significant challenges facing America today: the rising rates of childhood obesity. While there are many factors that contribute to the problem, studies indicate that children’s use of the media is an important piece of the puzzle. Most large national studies indicate that children who spend more time with media are more likely to choose high-calorie items on fast food menus than their peers who spend less time with media. Moreover, another reason for the rising rates is many children continue choosing fast foods because of the addictive sugar and salts they contain. Consequently, all too often these children’s fast food choices lead to developing diet-induced diabetes just as John’s choices did.