

Cause and Effect Essay

A cause-and-effect essay helps readers understand why something happened or is happening or shows readers how one thing affects something else. The following is an example outline and is shown in a five-paragraph essay form.

I. Introduction: *Start broadly and end narrowly. Introductions aim to introduce the topic without giving too much away in the beginning. They end narrowly by concluding with the thesis statements, which is a preview for the rest of the paper.*

A. Thesis Statement: *Tells readers what the causes and effects are.*

- i. Example: Finding a job is harder today than it was twenty years ago because of the economy, of competition, and the good ole boy system.

II. Cause (or effect) #1- The economy

A. *In this paragraph, talk about how the economy affects people's job searches.*

III. Cause (or effect) #2- Competition

A. *In this paragraph, talk about how competition affects people's job searches.*

IV. Cause (or effect) #3- Good ole boy system

A. *In this paragraph, talk about how the system affects people's job searches.*

V. Conclusion: *Connect your individual ideas back to the overarching argument.*