

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.*

Definition Essay

A definition essay defines a certain person, place, or thing, through the duration of the text. Formal definitions contain three parts: 1.) the term to be defined, 2.) the general class to which the term belongs, and 3.) the things that make the term different from all other items in the general class to which the term belongs. All three of these parts should be in a definition essay. Mainly, definitions essays define by comparison or examples.

- 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: Friendship is shaped by trust, love, and fun times.
- II. Body Paragraph One: Trust
 - A. In this paragraph, talk about what trust is and how it defines what friendship is.
- III. Body Paragraph Two: Love
 - A. In this paragraph, talk about what love is and how it defines what friendship is.
- IV. Body Paragraph Three: Fun Times.
 - A. In this paragraph, talk about what fun times are and how it defines what friendship is.
- V. Conclusion: *Connect your individual ideas back to the overarching argument.*

Compare and Contrast Essay

This essay examines similarities or differences, or both, between two or more subjects. The following are two different ways to arrange ideas.

- 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: The automakers Ford and Chevrolet have many similarities and differences.
 - II. Subject A
 - A. Point 1
 - B. Point 2
 - C. Point 3
 - III. Subject B
 - A. Point 1
 - B. Point 2
 - C. Point 3
 - IV. Conclusion: *Connect your individual ideas back to the overarching argument.*
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- I. Introduction
 - A. Thesis Statement: The automakers Ford and Chevrolet have many different similarities and differences
- II. Point 1
 - A. Subject A
 - B. Subject B
- III. Point 2
 - A. Subject A
 - B. Subject B
- IV. Point 3
 - A. Subject A
 - B. Subject B
- V. Conclusion

Kirszner, Laurie G., and Stephen R. Mandell. "Compare and Contrast Essay." *Focus on Writing: Paragraphs and Essays*. New York, NY: Bedford/St. Martins, 2008. 106. Print.

(Compiled by Lauren Seidenschmidt)