



Organize Before You Write

The **cause-and-effect essay** is an argumentative essay that makes a case for relationships between two subjects. Typically, the author will show how a person, thing, idea, or event influenced another person, thing, idea or event. There are several ways to approach the thesis for a cause and effect essay: focus on a single cause-and-effect relationship; show how one event causes multiple effects; or explore how a single phenomenon has multiple causes.

Prior to writing your essay, use the space below to create a diagram that shows the cause/effect relationships you will be discussing. Use a simple one-to-one diagram for single cause/single effect pairs, or use a tree diagram for causes that have multiple and/or cascading effects. You can then refer to the diagram as you create an outline for your essay, to ensure you are organizing your text into sections and paragraphs in a way that is easy to grasp.

of causes _____ # of effects _____