

The Causal Analysis Essay

The Causal Analysis, or Cause and Effect Essay, is used to make connections between subjects. Despite what some believe, this is a common type of writing and is done almost inadvertently, many times without even realizing it.

Examples of how to use Causal Analysis:

1. CNN wonders why the huge voter turnout didn't prove advantageous to John Kerry like all the pundits thought it would. Why did people vote the way they did?
2. Americans love to watch the lives of famous people. What effect has this fascination with celebrity had on the American culture?
3. Cause: What do you think are the reasons for modern youths' apathy toward politics?
4. Effect: Discuss the impact of drug testing in the American workplace.
5. Cause and Effect: What motivates students to drop out of school and what happens to them once they leave?

Strategies for writing a Causal Analysis:

1. The purpose of the essay should be stated in the introduction in a clear and concise manner. Ambiguous summations and phrases should be deleted. The thesis should focus on the cause, the effect, or both.
2. The paper is written with the audience in mind and the proper tone is used throughout.
3. The subject is rigorously detailed and fallacies, legends and hearsay are avoided.
4. A clear and concise organizational pattern is followed throughout.
5. Absolutes like "It must be obvious" and "there is no doubt" are not used. Instead phrases such as "Most likely" or "One probable cause" are prevalent.

For Instance:

"One common concern expressed about the rise of in divorces and decline in stability of the family is that the family has traditionally been a key factor in transmitting stable cultural and moral values from generation to generation. Various studies have shown that educational and religious institutions often can have only a limited impact on children without strong family support." George Gallup, Jr. from *The Faltering Family*