

CAUSE AND EFFECT ESSAY - BLOCK STRUCTURE TEMPLATE

Your Name: _____ Course: _____ Date: _____
Word Count Target: _____

I. INTRODUCTION (10-12% of total word count)

A. Hook

[Write an attention-grabbing opening: striking statistic, relevant question, compelling anecdote, or thought-provoking statement]

B. Background/Context (2-3 sentences)

[Provide brief context about your topic - what readers need to understand before your thesis]

C. Thesis Statement

[State your main argument clearly: What cause(s) lead to what effect(s)? Be specific.]

II. BODY SECTION 1: CAUSES (35-40% of total word count)

A. Cause #1: [Name of first major cause]

Topic Sentence:

[Introduce this cause clearly]

Evidence:

[Provide data, statistics, expert quotes, or research findings]

Explanation:

[Explain HOW this functions as a cause - what is the mechanism?]

Transition:

[Connect to next cause]

B. Cause #2: [Name of second major cause]

Topic Sentence:

[Introduce this cause clearly]

Evidence:

[Provide data, statistics, expert quotes, or research findings]

Explanation:

[Explain HOW this functions as a cause - what is the mechanism?]

Transition:

[Connect to next cause]

C. Cause #3: [Name of third major cause]

Topic Sentence:

[Introduce this cause clearly]

Evidence:

[Provide data, statistics, expert quotes, or research findings]

Explanation:

[Explain HOW this functions as a cause - what is the mechanism?]

Transition:

[Bridge to effects section - "These causes produce the following effects..." or similar]

III. TRANSITION PARAGRAPH (Optional, 50-75 words)

[If your essay is long enough, include a brief paragraph connecting causes to effects]

IV. BODY SECTION 2: EFFECTS (35-40% of total word count)

A. Effect #1: [Name of first major effect]

Topic Sentence:

[Introduce this effect clearly]

Evidence:

[Provide data, statistics, case studies, or documented examples]

Analysis:

[Explain the impact and significance of this effect]

Transition:

[Connect to next effect]

B. Effect #2: [Name of second major effect]

Topic Sentence:

[Introduce this effect clearly]

Evidence:

[Provide data, statistics, case studies, or documented examples]

Analysis:

[Explain the impact and significance of this effect]

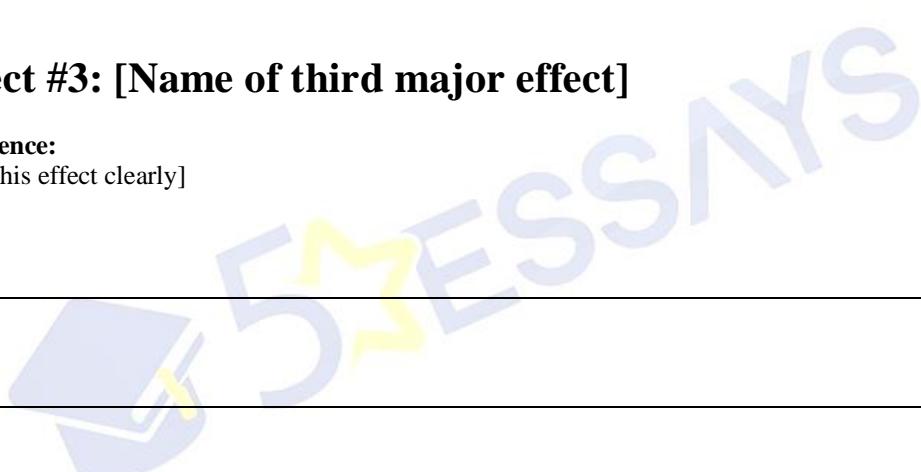
Transition:

[Connect to next effect]

C. Effect #3: [Name of third major effect]

Topic Sentence:

[Introduce this effect clearly]



Evidence:

[Provide data, statistics, case studies, or documented examples]

Analysis:

[Explain the impact and significance of this effect]

Transition:

[Lead to conclusion - "These effects demonstrate..." or similar]

V. CONCLUSION (10-12% of total word count)

A. Restate Thesis (in different words)

[Rephrase your main argument without copying the thesis exactly]



B. Summary of Main Points

[Briefly recap the key causes and effects - 2-3 sentences]

C. Significance Statement

[Why does this causal relationship matter? What are the broader implications?]

D. Final Thought

[End with a memorable closing: call to action, future prediction, or thought-provoking statement]

WORKS CITED / REFERENCES

[List all sources used in your essay following your required citation format: MLA, APA, or Chicago]

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

REVISION CHECKLIST

Before submitting, check off each item:

Content:

- Thesis clearly states cause-effect relationship
- Each cause/effect has supporting evidence from credible sources
- I've explained mechanisms (HOW causes produce effects)
- I've avoided confusing correlation with causation
- All claims are backed by research, not just opinions

Organization:

- Block structure maintained (all causes together, all effects together)
- Each paragraph focuses on ONE cause or effect
- Transition sentences connect ideas smoothly
- Introduction hooks reader and provides context
- Conclusion synthesizes without introducing new information

Evidence:

- At least 2-3 pieces of evidence per major point
- Sources are credible (peer-reviewed, expert, reputable)
- Statistics are specific and properly cited
- I've integrated quotes smoothly (not just dropped them in)

Technical:

- All sources properly cited in-text
- Works Cited/References page formatted correctly
- Grammar, spelling, punctuation checked
- Word count meets assignment requirements
- Formatting follows assignment guidelines