# CAUSE AND EFFECT ESSAY - CHAIN STRUCTURE TEMPLATE

**Your Name: _____Course: _____Date: _____Word Count Target: _____**

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# 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]

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## B. Background/Context (2-3 sentences)

[Provide brief context about your topic and the causal chain you'll explore]

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## C. Thesis Statement

[State the complete causal chain: Initial cause → Effect 1/Cause 2 → Effect 2/Cause 3 → Final Effect]

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# II. CAUSE-EFFECT PAIR 1 (22-25% of total word count)

## A. Initial Cause: [Name your starting event/condition]

**Topic Sentence:**
[Introduce the initial cause that starts the chain]

**Evidence:**
[Provide data, statistics, or research supporting this cause exists]

**Mechanism:**
[Explain HOW this cause functions - what makes it significant?]

## B. Effect 1: [Name the first result]

**Topic Sentence:**
[State the direct result of the initial cause]

**Evidence:**
[Provide proof that this effect occurs - data, studies, examples]

**Significance:**
[Why does this effect matter? What makes it important?]

## C. Transition to Next Pair

[Explain how Effect 1 BECOMES Cause 2 - this is critical for chain structure]

# III. CAUSE-EFFECT PAIR 2 (22-25% of total word count)

## A. Cause 2 (which is Effect 1 from above): [Restate Effect 1 as a new cause]

**Topic Sentence:**
[Show how the previous effect now functions as a cause]

**Evidence:**
[Supporting data that connects this to what comes next]

**Connection:**
[Explicitly link back to Pair 1 - "As a result of [Effect 1]..."]

## B. Effect 2: [Name the second result]

**Topic Sentence:**
[State the result of Cause 2]

**Evidence:**
[Research, statistics, or examples proving this effect occurs]

**Analysis:**
[Explain the impact - how is this effect significant?]

## C. Transition to Next Pair

[Explain how Effect 2 BECOMES Cause 3 - maintain the chain]

# IV. CAUSE-EFFECT PAIR 3 (22-25% of total word count)

## A. Cause 3 (which is Effect 2 from above): [Restate Effect 2 as a new cause]

**Topic Sentence:**
[Show how the previous effect now functions as a cause]

**Evidence:**
[Documentation supporting this causal link]

**Mechanism:**
[HOW does this cause produce the next effect?]

## B. Effect 3 (Final Effect): [Name the ultimate consequence]

**Topic Sentence:**
[State the final result of the entire causal chain]

**Evidence:**
[Strong supporting data for this final effect - make it compelling]

**Analysis:**
[Explain the cumulative impact of the entire chain]

## C. Transition to Conclusion

[Lead to conclusion by emphasizing the complete chain reaction]

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

## A. Restate Thesis (emphasize the chain)

[Rephrase your causal chain - Initial cause → through sequential effects → Final outcome]

## B. Summary of Sequential Relationship

[Briefly recap HOW each effect became the next cause - emphasize the domino effect]

## C. Cumulative Impact Statement

[What is the overall significance of this chain? Why does understanding it matter?]

## D. Final Statement

[End with a memorable closing: broader implications, call to action, or future prediction]

# OPTIONAL: CAUSE-EFFECT PAIR 4 (For longer essays 2,000+ words)

If your essay requires more depth, add a fourth pair here following the same pattern:

## A. Cause 4 (Effect 3): [Previous effect as new cause]

## B. Effect 4: [Next result]

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## C. Transition

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# WORKS CITED / REFERENCES

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

1.
2.
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# CHAIN STRUCTURE CHECKLIST

Before submitting, verify your chain structure:

**Chain Logic:**

- Initial cause clearly identified and explained
- Each effect explicitly becomes the next cause
- Transition sentences show HOW each effect triggers next cause
- The chain progresses logically (no broken links)
- Final effect represents culmination of entire chain

**Content Quality:**

- Each cause-effect pair has strong evidence
- I've explained mechanisms (HOW causation works) at each step
- Transitions emphasize the domino/chain nature
- Conclusion emphasizes cumulative, sequential impact
- No confusion between correlation and causation

**Organization:**

- Chain structure maintained throughout (not switching to block)
- Each pair is roughly equal length
- Thesis previews the complete chain
- Introduction sets up sequential nature
- Conclusion synthesizes the full chain reaction

**Evidence:**

- At least 2 pieces of evidence per cause-effect pair
- Sources are credible and properly cited
- Statistics support each link in the chain
- Evidence proves causation, not just correlation

**Technical:**

- All sources cited in-text and in Works Cited
- Grammar, spelling, punctuation checked
- Word count meets requirements
- Formatting follows guidelines

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# VISUALIZING YOUR CHAIN

Use this space to map your causal chain visually before writing:

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[Initial Cause]
      ↓
[Effect 1 / Cause 2]
      ↓
[Effect 2 / Cause 3]
      ↓
[Effect 3 / Final Effect]
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**Fill in your chain:**

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**Key Question:** Does each arrow represent a clear causal relationship? If not, revise!