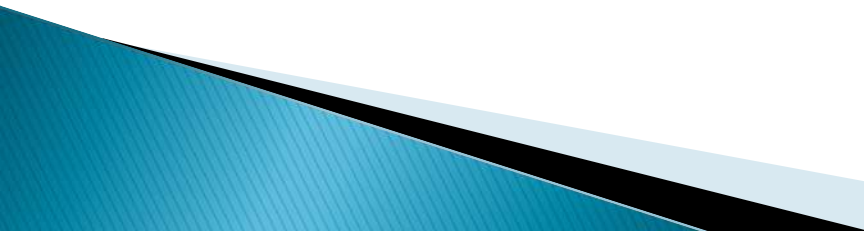


Essay Type 2: The Cause & Effect Essay



What is a cause and effect essay?

- ▶ When writing a cause and effect essay often we start at the result of something and work back the way to discover the cause.
 - ▶ When writing a cause and effect essay you must think **critically, analytically and think outside of the box.**
 - ▶ Examples topics may include: Obesity, Poverty, increased school fees, war, building projects that fail and the increasing cost of a healthy diet.
 - ▶ **TASK:** Choose one of the above examples and then identify 4 possible causes.
- 

Language & Grammar needed

- ▶ **Phrases:** needed for introducing/outlining an effect: 1. Because of ; 2. As a result of
- ▶ **Verbs :** to express cause – result from; to be caused by
- ▶ **Verbs:** to express result – result in; cause; lead to.
- ▶ **Coordinating conjunctions:** so + result (inf); for +cause (for).
- ▶ **Introductory adverbs:** Therefore, consequently, thus +independent clause, as a result and for this reason.
- ▶ **HOMEWORK : P.250 Ex 21** – Find and correct the errors in the text and identify the type of error that has occurred.



In class writing practice (p.233)

- ▶ Separate handout.



ORGANISING CAUSES: MODELS

- 1. **Order of familiarity:** This might be from your perspective or the reader's perspective. Your causes may be organised from the obvious to the less obvious.
 - 2. **Order of interest:** less to more interesting
 - 3. **Order of importance:** less to most significant.

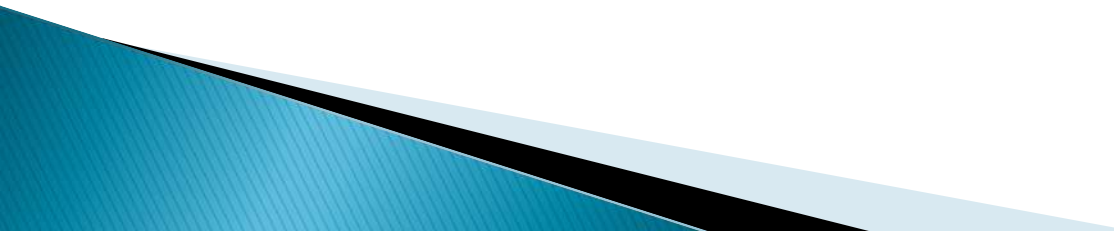
 - *If you believe the causes have equal weight you can arrange them however you like

 - ****Immediate causes** are those which are central causes.
 - *** **Remote causes** are ones which may be less obvious but not necessarily less significant.
- 

Immediate & Remote Causes

- ▶ Exercise 6 (p.234). Group A – Task A; Group B – Task B

The Thesis Statement in C & E

- ▶ May simply state the cause to be discussed:
 - ▶ “Conflicts over money, interfering relatives and career problems all contributed to the demise of their relationship”.
 - ▶ Or it may simply summarise the causes:
 - ▶ “Conflicts about several unresolved issues ultimately caused the demise of their relationship”.
 - ▶ **Practice:** Read the text: Why our cars guzzle gas” on Page 237 and answer the questions that follow.
- 

False Cause Reasoning

- ▶ You must be careful you do not directly link events which happen at the same time and say X caused the problem Y. Do not simply assume X caused Y.
- ▶ **Example:** President X was elected in November. Three weeks later, there was an economic crash.
- ▶ Practice in distinguishing between **Chronological events (T)** and **Cause & effect (C/E)**: Exercise 8. Group A Qs 1–5; Group B Qs 6–10.

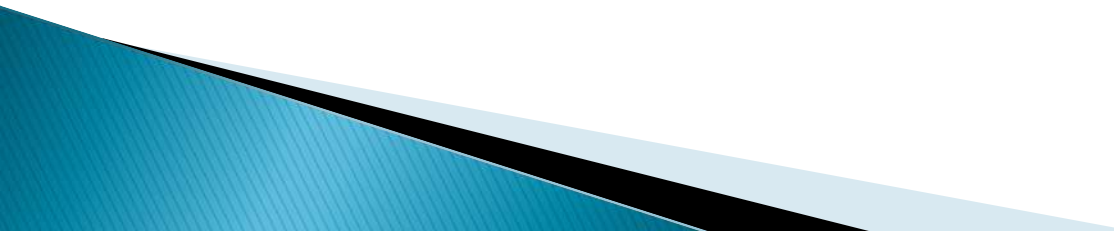
Exercise 8 – answers

- 1. T
- 2. T
- 3. C/E or T?
- 4. T
- 5. C/E
- 6. T
- 7. C/E
- 8. C/E
- 9. T
- 10. T
- Sometimes it is hard to tell the difference! But think of T as a coincidence. For C/E you need hard evidence!!

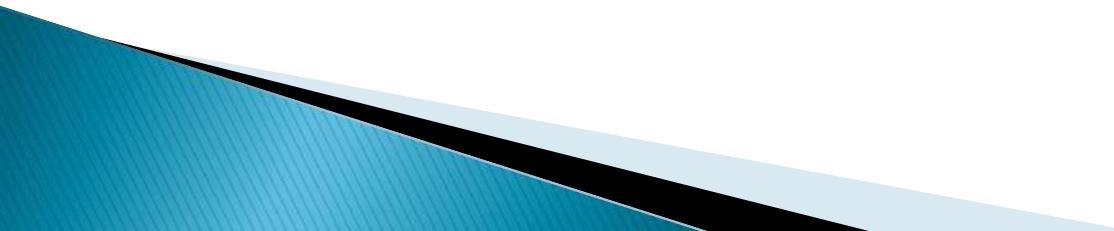
Sources of information

- ▶ When researching C/E it is important you find reliable information to support your ideas.
- ▶ Wikipedia is an example of an **UNRELIABLE** source.
Why??
- ▶ Research the author, publication source and publication date carefully. If it is very old, the information is not up to date!

Many effects and one cause

- ▶ So far we have looked at one effect with many causes but what about a single cause with many effects?
 - ▶ **Excessive sugar consumption** can have many effects such as: **Blood sugar imbalances, tooth decay, hyperactivity in children and weight gain.**
 - ▶ Each effect (in blue) should be an individual paragraph in your essay.
 - ▶ **HOMEWORK TASK:** See separate handout.
- 

Organising the effects

- ▶ Like causes, effects can be unrelated and some may be less important than others. Organise the effects according to their importance or significance.
 - ▶ Ex 12: Immediate v Remote Effects
 - ▶ **Group A complete Q1–4; Group B Q5–8.**
 - ▶ **Then organise the effects into an essay outline.**
- 

Thesis Statement: Effect Analysis Essay

- ▶ The thesis statement does not have to be persuasive. It can be a simply stated central idea. For example: “The tax increase will bring benefits to our city”.
- ▶ **Homework:** Reading text on p.241–242 “Do it” and answer the questions 1–5 on p.242.

The causal chain

- ▶ The causes and effects are always related and linked closely together with one effect often becoming the cause of another effect. This is also known as the domino effect. See p.243 for an example.
- ▶ Ex 18 (p.246): Disaster in Southern California – Group A; Poverty – Group B.

What is the causal chain in each one? With your partner write a paragraph explaining the causal chain.

Causal Chain – Homework assignment

- ▶ See separate handout.
- ▶ Due 30th March at 5pm. Submit via Moodle

Cause and Effect Stage 3 assignment

- ▶ See separate handout.
 - ▶ Due Week 11 at 5pm. Submit in my office (A257) or via university email account only.
 - ▶ Must be typed, font size 12 or larger and sheets must be stapled, bound or enclosed in a plastic wallet.
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