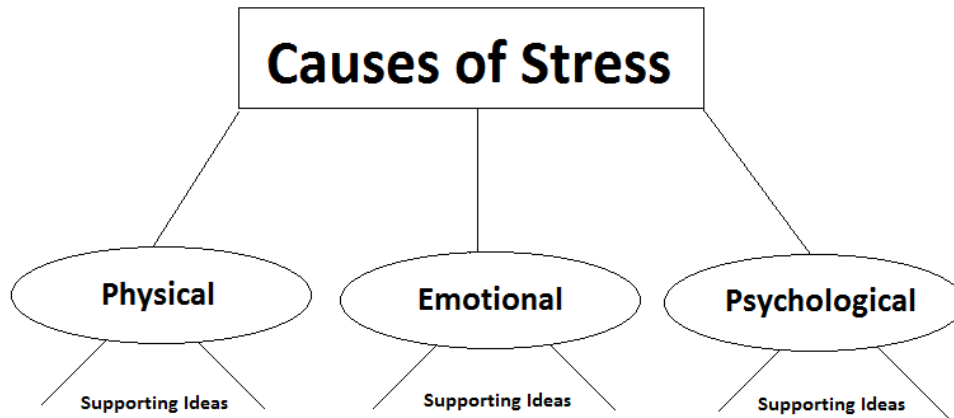


The Writing Centre

Cause and Effect Essay

A Cause and Effect essay seeks to explain 1) the reasons for certain actions, situations and behaviours or 2) the consequences of certain actions, situations and behaviours. The essay may examine an *effect* (e.g., success) and find its *causes* (education, talent, hard work, etc.). Alternatively, the essay may begin with a *cause* (e.g., overwork) and describe its *effects* (stress, poor health, damaged relationships, etc.).

Step 1: Brainstorm Ideas



Step 2: Create an Outline

INTRODUCTION:

Lead: _____

Thesis Statement:

There are three main causes of _____ in _____: _____, _____, and _____.

Or

There are three main effects of _____ in _____: _____, _____, and _____.



BODY PARAGRAPH 1

Topic Sentence: One cause of /effect of/ reason why _____

1. Support/Example 1
2. Support/Example 2
3. Support/ Example 3

Concluding/Transition Sentence: _____

BODY PARAGRAPH 2

Topic Sentence: Another cause of /effect of/ reason why _____

1. Support/Example 1
2. Support/Example 2
3. Support/ Example 3

Concluding/Transition Sentence: _____

BODY PARAGRAPH 3

Topic Sentence: A third cause of /effect of/ reason why _____

1. Support/Example 1
2. Support/Example 2
3. Support/ Example 3

Concluding/Transition Sentence: _____

CONCLUSION: (suggest a solution)

In Conclusion _____

Step 3: Write Your First Draft



Tips: Your final body paragraph should be the most convincing. It is your last chance to convince your audience that you have correctly and usefully identified the causes and/or effects. Make sure to source any information used that is not your own. Reconsider your audience to be certain your strategies meet their needs.

Step 4: RE-READ, RE-WORK, REVISE, RE-DO, REPEAT

If possible, try to complete your essay a few days before it is due. You need to 'take a break' from your completed essay so that you can edit it with a fresh perspective. Try to edit your paper twice before handing it in. Keep your essay simple, follow this format and focus on supporting your thesis as strongly as you can.

Sources:

"Cause/Effect Essay Outline." (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.eslflow.com/CauseEffectOutline.pdf>

Buckley, J. (2003). *Checkmate*. Canada: Nelson.

Davis, J. & Liss, R. (2006). *Effective academic writing 3: The essay*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

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