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___________.

- Physical
  - Supporting Ideas
- Emotional
  - Supporting Ideas
- Psychological
  - Supporting Ideas
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:**


*Developed by:* The Writing Centre/Leanna Etwaroo/ May 2012

*Revised by:* Derek Jenkins, September 2013