

Essay #2: CAUSE AND EFFECT

Requirements: 3-4 pages (Typed, MLA formatting) + Works Cited page

Sources: 3 sources minimum (2 must be “print” articles). Sources are newspaper or magazine articles, audio reports (such as from NPR. Org) or documentary videos (PBS.org or KANOPY are good sources for videos).

DUE: WED MAR 22, ONE PARAGRAPH TOPIC SUMMARY

DUE: WED March 29

For this essay you will explain two or three significant causes or effects of a particular problem, event, or phenomenon. We have discussed many possible topics in class; additionally, the related chapter in your book offers some acceptable suggestions. To support your ideas, you’ll need to offer some evidence in the form of facts, statistics, expert quotations, or real situation. Your paper should contain a mix of paraphrase and direct quotations, and all information from other sources must be cited with a parenthetical citation as well as an entry on your works cited list. Remember that “effects” can be positive (not just negative) and it’s a good idea to show a well-balanced discussion. In other words, if you believe that playing video games is mostly harmful to young children, you should still acknowledge any positive effects, such as learning benefits or stress relief. Don’t paint a completely negative or positive picture of your topic IF there is something otherwise to be said. On the other hand, some topics may not have positives—such as, there is really no “positive” side of teen suicide. It’s a sad, tragic reality that needs to be prevented. However, you CAN offer hopeful and useful information such as how it can be prevented and what we can do to recognize danger signs in others, now that know some of the causes or facts behind it. Remember that you are speaking to an audience and giving them useful information, so think about how you can present this information in a way that is useful and interesting.

PARENTHETIC CITATION EXAMPLES

QUOTATION WITH A SIGNAL PHRASE THAT IDENTIFIES THE AUTHOR:

According to John Guzman, Professor of Behavioral Sciences at Princeton University, “Children who watch more than twenty hours of television are at a greater risk for developing attention span disorders.”

QUOTATION WITH A SIGNAL PHRASE THAT DOES NOT IDENTIFY THE AUTHOR:

Many researchers concur that “Children who watch more than twenty hours of television are at a greater risk for developing attention span disorders” (Guzman).

PARAPHRASED SENTENCE:

Many researchers have observed that children who watch a significant amount of television (twenty hours or more per week) often show increased risk for ADHD and related disorders (Guzman)