

Assignment:

Write a 3-4 page essay (750-1000 words) in which you analyze 1-3 major/contributory causes or effects of one of the topics listed below. You are required to use a minimum of 3 articles/print sources (can be an online print source). In addition to the three print sources, you may also use documentary films and/or audio or visual news segments, or photographs. Your paper must include a works cited page AND your essay must contain parenthetical citations to identify your sources within your essay.

To begin, first educate yourself on the subject at hand by reading some related articles from academic/scholarly databases such ProQuest, Opposing Viewpoints, and CQ Researcher (available through GCC's Library webpage). Take some time to view documentaries and listen to audio reports such as those studied in class. Once you have learned about your topic, you must decide which major causes or effects are most significant or most crucial to our understanding of the issue.

One reason why we examine causes and effects is to find solutions to social/scientific problems and to gain a deeper understanding of our communities and the world in general so that we can more effectively create new laws, policies, and institutions. As you write your paper, write it with the purpose of *teaching* your audience about one important aspect of this social issue and with the goal that our improved understanding of the problem will result in positive changes for all of us. Therefore, in your conclusion, you should briefly offer ideas for solutions or changes that we can make to help improve this problem and tell your readers why such a change is important. (This is called a "call to action").

TOPICS: (CHOOSE ONE)

1. WHY DO SO MANY STUDENTS DROP OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL IN LOS ANGELES? (CAUSES)
2. WHAT ARE EFFECTS OF CELLPHONES IN THE CLASSROOM?
3. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CAUSES OF CHILD ABUSE?
4. HOW DID THE "BLACK LIVES MATTER" MOVEMENT BEGIN and TAKE SHAPE? (CAUSES)
5. IN THE MAJORITY OF CASES, WHAT CAUSES HOMELESSNESS (CAUSES AND/OR A CAUSAL CHAIN)
6. WHAT ARE SOME CAUSES OF DEPRESSION IN TEENAGERS and/or CHILDREN?
7. WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME OF THE EFFECTS OF THE #METOO MOVEMENT?
8. WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF HOMELESSNESS ON CHILDREN
9. HOW WILL CLIMATE CHANGE/GLOBAL WARMING EFFECT WEATHER PATTERNS?
10. WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF A PARTICULAR DIET (VEGANISM, PALEO, LOW CARB, HIGH-SUGAR, etc.)

DUE DATES: SEE SYLLABUS

SAMPLE OUTLINE (Keep in mind that this is one variation of what your paper might look like. Your outline will look different, however, if you are examining one major cause or a causal chain. The point of an outline is that it should be a logical plan of your thought process, one that allows you to see the blueprints of your discussion ahead of time. Imagine that you will need to present this report to a group of people on a committee. Will they be convinced by your points and will they find your analysis easy to follow?

- I. Introduction (Can be more than one paragraph)
 - A. Hook illustrating very clearly the issue at hand
 - B. Overview of the issue to be discussed
 - A. Facts
 - B. Why it's an important issue
 - C. Thesis Statement (Example: In addition to the well-known health problems associated with obesity, perhaps most devastating effect of childhood obesity is a low self-esteem, which can, in turn, lead to self-destructive habits such as bingeing and purging, depression, and isolation.)
- II. Examination of first cause/effect
 - A. Explanation of the cause/effect and why it's important
 - B. Proof that this cause/effect exists
 - C. Analysis or discussion of your evidence/proof
- III. Examination of second cause/effect
 - A. Explanation of the cause/effect and why it's important
 - B. Proof that this cause/effect exists
 - C. Analysis or discussion of your evidence/proof
- IV. Examination of third cause/effect and why it's important
 - D. Explanation of the cause/effect and why it's important
 - E. Proof that this cause/effect exists
 - F. Analysis or discussion of your evidence/proof
- V. CONCLUSION
 - A. Restatement of the main points
 - B. Predictions? What might this problem/situation look like in the future?
 - C. What should we do about it? Solutions?

