

Cause / Effect Essay

Many phenomena, events, situations and trends can be better understood by describing their causes and effects. The cause and effect essay explains what happens and why it happens.

Cause / Effect Essay Specific Vocabulary

Obesity is **a cause of / a reason for** premature death.

Media coverage **affects / influences** voting patterns.

Media coverage **leads to / gives rise to / brings about** changes in voting patterns.

Voting patterns **are affected / are influenced** by media coverage.

Stress **causes / produces / results in** low exam scores.

Low exam scores **are caused by / are produced by / result from** stress.

Low exam scores **are a consequence of / are a result of / are due to / the effect of** stress.

When / If there is constant economic instability, currency crashes occur.

As a result of / As a consequence of constant economic instability, currency crashes occur.

There is constant economic instability. **As a result, / As a consequence, / Consequently, / Thus, / Therefore, / Hence, / For this reason,** currency crashes occur.

Because / Since / As some areas face extreme weather conditions, there is damage to property.

Owing to / On account of / Because of / Due to the fact that some areas face extreme weather conditions, there is damage to property.

Owing to / On account of / Because of / Due to extreme weather conditions, there is damage to property.

Owing to / On account of / Because of / Due to extreme weather conditions, damage to property occurs.

Cause / Effect Essay Structure

While writing a cause / effect essay, the order of the main points given in the thesis statement is followed in body paragraphs.

The following example is an outline for a **cause essay** about the reasons for cities becoming overcrowded.

Thesis statement: There are two main reasons why these and other cities are becoming so crowded; one economic, the other socio-cultural.

1st body: economic reasons

1. cities are engines of development.

2nd body: socio-cultural reasons

1. education
2. urbanization

The following example is an outline for an **effect essay** about the effects of the computer on life.

Thesis statement: The two main areas in which computers have brought about a profound change in our lives are in the economic field and in the field of communications.

1st body: economic effects

1. computers in business
2. computers and national economies

2nd body: effects on communication

1. e-mail
2. globalization

The sample shows essay organization

Why are Cities Becoming Overcrowded?

General Statements

The fact that the world's cities are getting more and more crowded is well-known. Cities such as Tokyo, Sao Paolo, Bombay and Shanghai are now considered 'mega-cities', because of their enormous size and huge populations. There are two main reasons why these and other cities are becoming so crowded; one economic, the other socio-cultural.

Thesis Statement

Topic Sentence

First, the primary cause of cities becoming so crowded is economic. As a country develops, its cities become the engines of development, thus jobs are available in these areas. Frankfurt, Istanbul, Bombay and Sao Paolo are all the economic centres of their countries. For example, Tokyo was the motor for Japan's rapid economic development in the 1960's and 70's; as a result, its population increased rapidly. People moved to Tokyo because they could find employment and establish economic security for themselves and their families there.

Topic Sentence

Second, another factor in the huge increase in urban populations is the socio-cultural factor. Thousands of people migrate to the cities not only for jobs but also for educational and personal reasons. The better universities are always located in big cities and this attracts thousands of students every year, and these students stay on and work in the city after they graduate. Moreover, young people will move to the city as the villages and rural areas are more custom and tradition oriented. Therefore, young people believe this is an obstacle to their personal freedom.

Concluding Sentence

In conclusion, economic and cultural factors are the major causes of huge urban population. People will always move to the areas which provide opportunity and to the places which can give them the freedom they desire.

Final Thought

The sample shows essay connectors

Why are Cities Becoming Overcrowded?

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First, the primary cause of cities becoming so crowded is economic. As a country develops, its cities become the engines of development, thus jobs are available in these areas. Frankfurt, Istanbul, Bombay and Sao Paulo are all the economic centres of their countries. **For example**, Tokyo was the motor for Japan's rapid economic development in the 1960's and 70's; as a result, its population increased rapidly. People moved to Tokyo because they could find employment and establish economic security for themselves and their families there.

Second, another factor in the huge increase in urban populations is the socio-cultural factor. Thousands of people migrate to the cities not only for jobs but also for educational and personal reasons. The better universities are always located in big cities and this attracts thousands of students every year, and these students stay on and work in the city after they graduate. **Moreover**, young people will move to the city as the villages and rural areas are more custom and tradition oriented. Therefore, young people believe this is an obstacle to their personal freedom.

In conclusion, economic and cultural factors are the major causes of huge urban population. People will always move to the areas which provide opportunity and to the places which can give them the freedom they desire.

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specific vocabulary

Why are Cities Becoming Overcrowded?

The fact that the world's cities are getting more and more crowded is well-known. Cities such as Tokyo, Sao Paolo, Bombay and Shanghai are now considered 'mega-cities', **because of** their enormous size and huge populations. There are two main **reasons why** these and other cities are becoming so crowded; one economic, the other socio-cultural.

First, the primary **cause of** cities becoming so crowded is economic. As a country develops, its cities become the engines of development, **thus** jobs are available in these areas. Frankfurt, Istanbul, Bombay and Sao Paolo are all the economic centres of their countries. For example, Tokyo was the motor for Japan's rapid economic development in the 1960's and 70's; **as a result**, its population increased rapidly. People moved to Tokyo **because** they could find employment and establish economic security for themselves and their families there.

Second, another **factor** in the huge increase in urban populations is the socio-cultural **factor**. Thousands of people migrate to the cities **not only** for jobs **but also** for educational and personal reasons. The better universities are always located in big cities and this attracts thousands of students every year, and these students stay on and work in the city after they graduate. Moreover, young people will move to the city as the villages and rural areas are more custom and tradition oriented. **Therefore**, young people believe this is an obstacle to their personal freedom.

In conclusion, economic and cultural **factors** are the major **causes of** huge urban population. People will always move to the areas which provide opportunity and to the places which can give them the freedom they desire.

The sample shows essay organization

What effects has the computer had on our lives?

The twenty-first century is already turning out to be the century of the computer. The computer revolution that started after the Second World War is now developing exponentially and computers are beginning to influence and take over nearly every aspect of our lives. Computers are clearly changing and affecting society in many ways. The two main areas in which computers have brought about a profound change in our lives are in the economic field and in the field of communications.

General Statements

Thesis Statement

Topic Sentence

The computer has led to immense changes in economic and business life. First, businesses now have to be computerised or they risk failure. Every big corporation bases its operations on computing, regardless of which sector they are in. For example, Coca-Cola, the BBC and Levi's market and sell different products and services, yet they all share one basic property – without computers their operations would collapse. Second, computing is an economic dynamo. Japan, China, India and many other countries have large IT sectors which drive their economies upwards. Furthermore, the developed world is moving from an industrial-based economy to a computer and IT-based one.

Topic Sentence

It is not just in business that computers have affected us so profoundly; communication has been revolutionised totally. Firstly, whereas before, people wrote letters, which would often take weeks to reach their destinations, or speak on the phone, which was terribly expensive, now they e-mail. For instance, instead of waiting weeks for a letter now, we can read it instantly, seconds after it's been written. Secondly, many people use computers to communicate with people all around the world using chat rooms and chat programs, this was impossible before the computer became widespread. As a result, now people who live thousands of kilometres away from each other can communicate as much as they want and whenever they want using e-mail and/or chat rooms.

Concluding Sentence

In conclusion, computers have had a profound effect on our lives in many ways and it is in business and communication that they have had the greatest influence. In the future, if the computer continues evolving at such speed, our business practices and methods of communication will undergo even more radical changes.

Final Thought

The sample shows essay connectors

What effects has the computer had on our lives?

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The computer has led to immense changes in economic and business life. **First**, businesses now have to be computerised or they risk failure. Every big corporation bases its operations on computing, regardless of which sector they are in. **For example**, Coca-Cola, the BBC and Levi's market and sell different products and services, yet they all share one basic property – without computers their operations would collapse. **Second**, computing is an economic dynamo. Japan, China, India and many other countries have large IT sectors which drive their economies upwards. **Furthermore**, the developed world is moving from an industrial-based economy to a computer and IT-based one.

It is not just in business that computers have affected us so profoundly; communication has been revolutionised totally. **Firstly**, whereas before, people wrote letters, which would often take weeks to reach their destinations, or speak on the phone, which was terribly expensive, now they e-mail. **For instance**, instead of waiting weeks for a letter now, we can read it instantly, seconds after it's been written. **Secondly**, many people use computers to communicate with people all around the world using chat rooms and chat programs, this was impossible before the computer became widespread. As a result, now people who live thousands of kilometres away from each other can communicate as much as they want and whenever they want using e-mail and/or chat rooms.

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The computer has **led to** immense changes in economic and business life. First, businesses now have to be computerised or they risk failure. Every big corporation bases its operations on computing, regardless of which sector they are in. For example, Coca-Cola, the BBC and Levi's market and sell different products and services, yet they all share one basic property – without computers their operations would collapse. Second, computing is an economic dynamo. Japan, China, India and many other countries have large IT sectors which drive their economies upwards. Furthermore, the developed world is moving from an industrial-based economy to a computer and IT-based one.

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In conclusion, computers have had a profound **effect** on our lives in many ways and it is in business and communication that they have had the greatest **influence**. In the future, **if the computer continues evolving at such speed, our business practices and methods of communication will undergo even more radical changes.**