

Cause-and-Effect as a Pattern of Paragraph Development

The main objective in using a cause-and-effect method of paragraph development is to explain to your readers (a) why a certain situation happened; (b) the consequences connected to that particular situation or event; or (c) a discussion of both.

Writing your essay in this way will depend on your chosen topic and the main perspective that you want to convey. For example, if you want to explain to your audience the impact of CoViD-19 to the work of your parents, then your essay would focus on the **effects** of the pandemic to your parents and their work. On the other hand, if you want to share to the readers the reason why you transferred from a public to a private school, then your essay would focus on the **causes** of your action and decision.

As you plan to write in this manner, it is important that like all other essays, you should consider your audience. This means that you have to choose a topic which is significant and relatable to your readers. An essay tackling *the positive effects of reading using e-books* may be appealing to students who take delight in using e-books, and those who are tech savvy and more adept in using technological devices and such platforms. However, this same topic would not be interesting to a student who loves to read traditional books. Moreover, you have to make sure that your point is clear and concise so that your readers will not be confused in distinguishing the causes from the effects in your essay. Take a look at the sample essay and examine how the writer clearly stated the topic and the focus of the essay.

READING AND WRITING SKILLS

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.

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TOPIC SENTENCE

THESIS STATEMENT

The thesis statement of a cause-effect essay should clarify your focus. In here, the writer stated the two reasons (causes) why cities become overcrowded.

BODY of the essay

TOPIC SENTENCE

CONCLUDING SENTENCE

FINAL THOUGHTS

Points to remember:

Thesis Statement: It is the last sentence of the introduction which helps to control the ideas in your paper. Take note that the thesis statement is not your topic. Topics are broader and thesis statements are more specific.

Topic sentence: It is the first sentence of each paragraph in the body. It introduces the idea or main points that will be discussed in a particular paragraph in the body of your essay and is helpful in making smooth transitions between each paragraph.

On analyzing the essay...

As you can see, the essay has three parts: introduction, body, and conclusion. In the **introduction**, a background of the topic has been established. With the help of the thesis statement, the focus of the essay has been made clearer. In the **body**, the two paragraphs gave focus on the two reasons explaining why cities become overcrowded which are stated as well in the thesis statement. It is very important that you discuss each point into separate paragraphs. Lastly, in the **conclusion** part, please take note that you have to restate the thesis statement and you have to include your final thoughts.