

English Composition and Language 1001

Persuasive Cause and Effect Essay Prompt

For Essay #2, you are to compose a three-page paper (69-line minimum framed by 1 inch margins) discussing a cause-and-effect relationship in a persuasive manner. Remember that the cause of an effect might not be single, but rather multiple. Also, the result of a cause may be single or multiple. Relationships between causes and effects are often very complex; therefore, make sure that you do not oversimplify. Consult the Blair Handbook, pages 116 and 117, for comments on the cause-and-effect method of developing an essay.

Although this is primarily a cause-and-effect paper, it should incorporate other strategies such as description, narration, comparison contrast, explanation, process, etc. It need not contain all of these methods of development, but it should include several of them.

You might begin by brainstorming, free writing, or using any pre-writing technique that works for you. Asking a question about the issue you choose is also a good idea. The answer to that question can be developed into your thesis statement. The thesis statement should be clearly stated before the introduction to your paper. Follow the **X is true because of a, b and c** format. Although this exact thesis statement does not actually need to appear in your introduction (you could, for example, expand it into multiple sentences in the introduction), it should serve as a reminder of the order that you have established for the entire paper. Once that order is established, it should be followed.

The topic you choose should be one that is of interest to you. I suggest something current that affects you directly or in which you are involved. Your paper should have a Works Cited page containing at least two outside sources. Only half of your sources can be electronic. All sources on this page (Works Cited) must be used in the paper with in-text parenthetical citations. For every quote or paraphrase you use, you must compose and include at least two sentences of original thought. Use the sources to support your own ideas. As usual, state those ideas as if they were fact, not as if they were your opinion. Refrain from the use of first-person or direct address (you).

You may work in pairs, as individuals, or as groups on this assignment. The choice is yours. I strongly recommend collaboration in some form.

This essay will be due on November 21, 2008, in order to allow time for one revision.