

## PARAGRAPH ORGANISATION IN CAUSE/EFFECT ESSAY

Cause/Effect essays are concerned with **why things happen (causes)** or what happens as **a result (effects)**. It is a common method of organizing and discussing ideas. A well-organized cause/effect essay should consist of:

### TITLE

#### INTRODUCTION

General statements

**Thesis statement**

Give **your first cause or effect** with a topic sentence and supporting details

Give **your second cause or effect** with a topic sentence and supporting details

**MAIN  
BODY**

#### CONCLUSION

Re-state your thesis statement, using different words

Final thoughts (your opinion, summary of your ideas, your prediction for the future, etc.)

## Sample Cause Essay

### FACTORS THAT LEAD TO SUCCESS AT UNIVERSITY

#### Introductory Paragraph

**Background information:** Being a student at a university is a dream for a lot of high school students. Any student who wants to have a bright future with a good career plans to study at a university. **However**, the road to success at university is full of obstacles that might interfere with students reaching their goals. **Therefore**, students should be aware of the difficulties which they could face during their college years. **Despite** these obstacles, students can achieve their dream of getting their degree.

**Thesis statement:** In order to be successful at university, students need strong motivation, and the ability to focus on their goals.

#### Body 1 (First Cause)

**Topic sentence:** **First**, students need to keep up the motivation they need to study.

**Support:** Students have many obligations to fulfill, **such as** completing homework assignments and research projects, studying for exams and writing term papers. Allocating enough time for all these things requires students to be highly motivated. **In addition**, many students work after school and arrive home late at night. Only dedicated and responsible students will push themselves to finish their work before going to bed disregarding their tiredness. **Also**, when the options are to go to a party with friends or stay home and work, only determined students will choose to study.

#### Body 2 (Second Cause)

**Topic sentence:** Students **also** need to focus on realistic academic goals.

**Support:** Many students are not aware of the importance of selecting the right university and major. In fact, a wrong decision may result in a waste of time and money. **For example**, students may have very high expectations and select a major that presents demands they cannot meet. In some cases, they find that they are on a career path they do not even enjoy. **As a result**, they may have to change their major or drop out of university when they realize that they cannot keep up their grades. **If** they are more focused on what they want, the better their chances will be to achieve their goals.

#### Conclusion

**Restatement of thesis:** **To sum up**, if students are enthusiastic about what they are studying and realistic about their academic goals, their university journey will be easier.

**Final thoughts:** What students gain at university as a person will have a huge impact on their future life in all aspects, so they should know the value of their time at university. **(364 words)**

## Sample Effect Essay

### EFFECTS of ALCOHOLISM

#### Introductory Paragraph

**Background information:** Alcoholism is the most severe form of alcohol abuse. It's simply defined as the inability to manage drinking habits. The effects of this disease are really serious. Many people cannot control their habit of drinking alcohol, and they can easily become addicted; that is a big problem.

**Thesis Statement:** Alcoholism has a serious impact on the physical and psychological states of a person.

#### Body 1 (First Effect)

**Topic sentence:** The first effects of alcoholism are physical.

**Support:** These are the most important **because** these can cause your death. **For example**, alcoholism causes cancer in the stomach, kidneys, and liver. **Besides**, alcohol alters the digestion of nutrients that the body needs to stay healthy. It also causes severe damage in the neurons, **so** it causes alterations in the body's movements, loss of appetite, and depression. There are other effects in the body like gastritis and cirrhosis of the liver. All these physical consequences could cause your death **if** you drink alcohol in mass quantities.

#### Body 2 (Second Effect)

**Topic sentence:** The second effects caused by alcoholism are psychological.

**Support:** At the beginning, alcohol makes you feel relaxed, but **if** you drink it in excess, it increases anxiety and causes depression. It can **also** cause family and legal problems, violence, changes of behavior, and suicide, among others. Alcohol is very powerful and can alter all your normal behaviors.

#### Conclusion

**Restatement of thesis: In conclusion**, the effects of alcoholism, which are physical and psychological, can cause many problems that affect your life in all aspects.

**Final thoughts:** Alcohol alters your brain, muscles, digestion process, and cause other disorders that affect your health. It also can cause you depression or changes in your behavior that result in problems with your family, friends, and with yourself. I think there are many treatment options available to help those in need to overcome alcohol abuse. **When** it is discovered in its early stages, the chance for a successful recovery increases significantly. **(303 words)**