



How to Write a Cause-Effect Essay

Showing Why Something Happens

Can we write on effects?

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What is the effect
of caffeine?

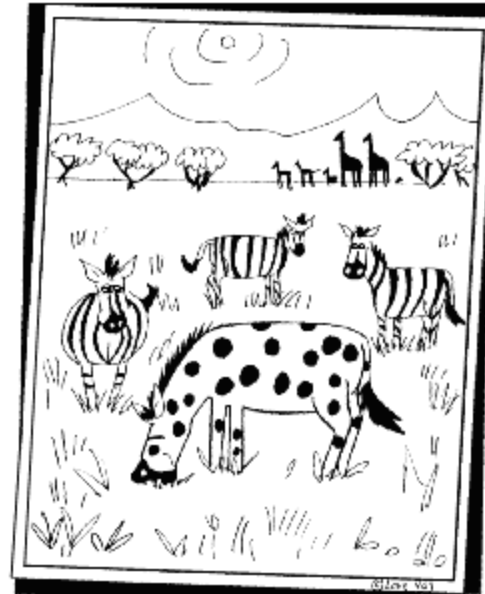
- Of course, not every cause-effect essay is about the causes.
- In fact, some may center on the effects of a single cause.
- Example Topic:
What are the **results** of air pollution?
- Example Thesis:
Air pollution negatively effects plants, animals, and humans.



What kind of essay is it?

- In five-paragraph essays, we usually write about either the causes or the effects, not both.
- It's not so much a cause and effect essay as a cause or effect essay.
- Then state it in the first paragraph if the essay is about causes or effects.

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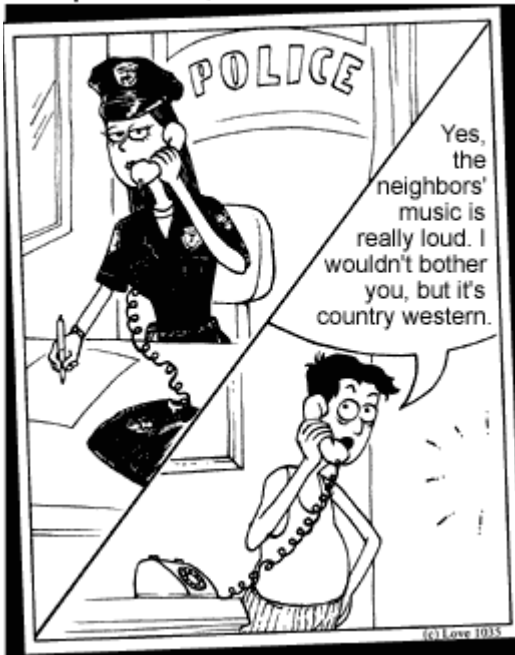
When zebra parents drop acid.

Why will the parents quit drugs?



What should be avoided?

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Is there also
noise pollution?

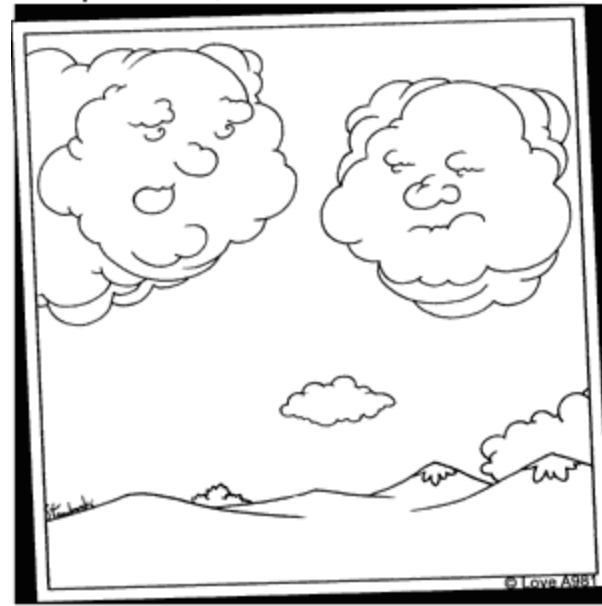
- Don't lose focus by covering too many parts of an issue.
- You can't cover all of the effects of air pollution: just pick three important ones to write about.
- For example, use air pollution's effect on plants, animals, and humans.



What is in the introduction?

- The introductory paragraph includes:
 1. General background information on the topic.
 2. A lead-in to the thesis.
 3. The basic cause with contributing causes.
 4. Or a series of effects of a cause.

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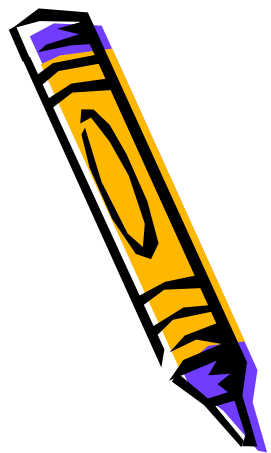
"My name is Bolverk. I hail from wherever it's cold."

Do introductions vary
this much?



The Body

- Begins with the first cause and follows the chain down to the last.
- Or lists the effects in their order.
- Uses transition words to **analyze** the process rather than describe it.
- Remember, we're telling WHY.



The Conclusion

- Rewords the thesis and basis for the effects
- Describes the primary cause or results

