

Cause-Effect Structure of Argument Criteria — *Grading Rubric*

Exemplary / *Exceeds*

The essay includes a concise thesis statement, appropriate and well-chosen supporting evidence, and transparently leads the reader through the argument:

- Concisely explains how the causes and/or effects help someone better understand this topic AND why this topic is important in the big picture, making insightful connections;
- Has a concise, analytical thesis statement that summarizes the patterns and relationships within and between the most significant causes and/or effects related to the topic;
- Has at least three appropriate and exceptional supporting ideas;
- Has appropriate and well-chosen evidence used to support argument; and
- Uses relevant transition language to transparently lead the reader through the argument.

Proficient / *Meets*

The essay includes a well-defined thesis statement, appropriate supporting evidence, and effectively leads the reader through the argument:

- Clearly explains how the causes and/or effects help someone better understand this topic and why this topic is important in the big picture;
- Begins with a clear, analytical thesis statement that summarizes the patterns and relationships within and between the most significant causes and/or effects related to the topic;
- Includes at least three appropriate supporting ideas;
- Uses pertinent evidence to support argument; and
- Employs relevant transition language to lead the reader through the argument effectively.

Areas for Improvement

The essay includes only a partial thesis statement and/or some supporting evidence.

Significant Reteaching

The essay includes little or no thesis statement, little or no supporting evidence, and does not lead the reader through the argument.