

JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CAUSE/EFFECT

Cause/effect analysis explains the relationship between either a cause and the effects of that cause or an effect and the causes of that effect.

CAUSE-to-EFFECT ANALYSIS

Cause-to-effect analysis states the cause in the topic sentence and then proceeds to analyze the topic by discussing the effects of the central idea. The following paragraphs are examples of cause-to-effect analysis.

Community Relations and Law Enforcement

Bad community relations cause at least two major problems for the policeman. First of all, the policeman cannot be effective without the help of the community in which he works. If the community doesn't help the police officer gather information on crimes and locate criminals, the crime rate goes up. This increase in crime, in turn, makes the police look very inefficient. Second, bad community relations often make the policeman's work a futile effort. For example, if the officer catches a criminal and takes him to court, the policeman may find that his witnesses are reluctant to testify because of what their friends might think of their helping the police. Thus, good community relations make for a more efficient law enforcement system.

Jim Stewart

Multiple Listing Service

The implementation of the Multiple Listing Service, a mutual listing of homes for sale by real estate companies, has had good results for small businesses, real estate salespeople, and the general selling and buying public. M.L.S. allows the small real estate business to benefit by building a large, instant inventory for a relatively small yearly fee. Also, M.L.S. brings agents and salespeople together to work for the benefit of their mutual clients and to share the commissions from the sales. Finally, M.L.S. enables sellers of real estate to have the largest audience of buyers, while still allowing buyers to have the greatest choice of available property.

Sherry V. Danner

Computer Breakdown

A breakdown in a computer due to one single electronic component can have devastating effects on an important computer program. One integrated circuit going partially bad, or just one faulty transistor, can cause many mathematical as well as functional and printing errors. Many times, the programmer may not find or realize the fault until his program has been completely bombed (erased or wiped out of computer memory). A painstaking search for the problem may not always point to a bad component but may appear as a programming mistake. Wasted time will be spent when the programmer attempts to rework a program, only to discover that the new program bombs out just as easily as the original. Sometimes the component may become only partially bad and function intermittently. This causes difficulties only at unexpected intervals. Other symptoms of bad components might be a completely dead computer or one that flashes its lights but will not respond to a programmer's commands. Again, this may give the illusion of a programming fault. The problems due to a faulty component or components can be one or a thousand.

William C. Stribling

EFFECT-TO-CAUSE ANALYSIS

Effect-to-cause analysis states the effect in the topic sentence and then proceeds to analyze the topic by discussing the causes of that effect. You should be aware of the logic involved in any causal relationship. If you state emphatically that a result or an effect had a specific cause or causes, you can check your logic by assuming that if the causes are removed, then the effects are also removed. Keeping this logical relationship in mind will prevent you from being too general or emotional in your discussion, thus avoiding a faulty causal relationship. The following paragraphs are examples of effect-to-cause analysis.

Property Taxes in Bexar County

The 1975 resurvey for property taxes in Bexar County was done by the combined efforts of the city, county, and school district offices. This resurvey was a total failure, mainly because of three reasons. In the first place, there was little time to coordinate and accomplish the survey to meet various deadlines. This resulted in poor investigating and analyzing the true market values of the various properties; thus, the emphasis was on quantity and not quality. Secondly, the combined efforts of these agencies required the hiring of additional investigators, and they were poorly trained for the job of appraising property, if they were trained at all. Finally, the conflicts among the different taxing agencies hindered any progress toward a unified resurvey of property values. Most of the debating and arguing centered around procedures and priorities. As a result of these differences, more time was spent on discussing what should be done than on what should be done.

Leonard Yanes

Accounting No-How

I failed my college accounting course for various reasons. First, I left high school in the ninth grade to explore the world; therefore, I missed many class-room hours dealing with the subjects of math and accounting. Secondly, I have a mental aversion to anything dealing with numbers. For example, I give the checkbook to my wife and ask her to do the mathematical calculations. I then cross my fingers and hope that it will balance out. Also, since I'm in real estate and know that when I sell a home I receive a percentage of the total commission paid, I find it very embarrassing to have to ask my fellow agents to figure out how much I get. I hope that they are a trustworthy bunch. Finally, when I did take the college accounting course, the college provided the best instructor, made the best textbooks available, and sent their best tutors to help me through the course. But my feeble mind could not comprehend the smallest amount of mathematical data. Now I've purchased a Deanie Owens Realtors franchise. God help me.

William Barrow

Why Children Leave Home

A child may leave home for any number of reasons, but three seem to be more common than any others. First, a child may leave home because of a lack of parental affection, which can leave the child with emotional scars. When parents are cold and uncaring, a child senses this and feels that she/he does not belong in the home. The child will then leave, seeking a home where she/he at least feels wanted and a part of a family. Second, when a child feels that he/she is not given just recognition as a person and as an individual, he/she may sometimes feel frustrated enough to leave home--especially if the parents do not stop what they are doing long enough to really listen to him/her or at least to respect some of the child's opinions. Finally, severe punishment by a child's parents which does not suit the child's misconduct may cause a child to leave home. The severe punishment is really child abuse, and a child will normally feel that she/he is not safe in such a home. Thus, for his/her own protection, for recognition, and for affection, a child may leave home.

Mavis Watts

Waterbeds Flooding the Market

Waterbed sales have surged greatly in the past few years. The cause of this rise in sales can be easily explained. Once thought to be only for young people with active sex lives, waterbeds are now used by people of all ages. For one thing, people are finding out about the benefits that come from sleeping on water. Waterbeds provide more restful sleep and reduce the tensions caused by sleeping on a nonconforming mattress. Many doctors recommend waterbeds for people who suffer from certain types of back ailments or arthritic conditions. In addition to more widespread awareness of the benefits, another factor in the growth of waterbed sales is that the products are being improved. The bladders that hold the water are made to be more durable and dependable. There used to be many horror stories about leaks or about the bladder bursting and flooding the house. Finally, the surge in waterbed sales can be attributed in part to the increasing

diversity of models available. Whereas there used to be only one type of waterbed made, many models are currently on the market, most of which are designed to cut down on wave movement. Beds which slow down or eliminate waves appeal to a greater segment of the population. And whereas the first waterbeds were distinctly contemporary in design, new models represent a wide variety of styles, from Colonial to French Provincial. It is mainly these three factors--more widespread knowledge of benefits, more dependable products, and more diversity of models—that have led to the rise in waterbed sales. As a result, waterbeds have assumed a firm position in the bedding market.

Man's Traps Threaten the Wolf's Existence

The wolf faces extinction if man does not stop his dangerous methods of controlling these animals. The methods used most often for destroying and regulating wolves today are steel traps, snares, and poison. These are used mainly by government personnel and private citizens motivated by the payment of bounties from public and private sources. All of these techniques are extremely effective on the wolf when they are applied intensively, both because the wolf travels in packs and because the animals live in such sparsely populated areas. When a person wipes out one pack, he may be destroying the whole population in one area from fifty to five thousand square miles. Therefore, if public opinion so dictates, man can now exterminate the wolf from the entire earth within a few years by using the techniques of steel trapping, snaring, and poisoning.

Steel traps are devices that when triggered cause a set of strong jaws to spring around an animal's foot and hold it firmly. The trap is buried shallowly near natural or artificial scent posts, around carcasses of large animals, on wolf trails, or in front of small baited holes known as "dirt holes." Wolf urine and a powerful smelling scent are often used near the trap. Traps are especially effective in autumn when ground conditions are good for setting them. However, they have the disadvantages of being fairly expensive and difficult for the trapper to transport.

The disadvantages of the steel trap can be completely overcome by the use of snares. These devices are made of wire, small cable, or extremely strong rope set in a sliding loop and hung along wolf trails or in other areas where wolves are found. The wolf accidentally sticks its neck into the loop and chokes itself to death. Snares are inexpensive, light, simple to set, and easy to keep operational in cold or snowy weather.

The last method, poisoning, is no doubt the most effective method of controlling wolves. The methods for using poison are the same for all compounds except cyanide, which is fired from a small gun implanted in the ground. This "getter," as the device is known, is triggered when the wolf chews on the baited end sticking up from the ground, and the poison blasts into the wolf's mouth. All of the other poisons are placed in carcasses or in chunks of bait. These latter can be dropped onto frozen lakes from aircraft as well as left by other methods around the wolves' territory.

Man's attempts to regulate these animals have almost succeeded in exterminating them. Factors such as bounties are partly responsible for these killings. But the fact right now is this: The methods of steel trapping, snaring, and poisoning will soon wipe out the wolf if the public does not take action to protect this species against the danger of extinction.

Sara Lee Corkhill

Children with Reading Problems

Teaching reading at an elementary school in Fayetteville, North Carolina, can be a frustrating and bewildering job. It was soon apparent that the reasons those children had reading problems could be traced back to their family situation. The family backgrounds can be grouped in the following way: low income; broken homes; and non-English-speaking.

Low-income families seem to be typical of the black and Indian people of the area, but there was also a small group of white children who came from this background. All of these children received free breakfasts and lunches from the school every weekday. Their families were large and the children were generally good natured and lovable; also, they were obviously neglected, judging by their grooming habits and manners. The parents of these children were educated through about the tenth grade, and none over the twelfth grade. There were no books, no magazines, no newspapers in the home. Due to this lack of stimulation, the children had no interest or desire to learn to read, and the parents did little to encourage them.

The second classification, children from broken homes, describes nearly as many children as that of the low-income families. Some of these children came from broken homes where the mother may have divorced and remarried as many as four times. A few of the mothers had never even married at all. These unhappy arrangements seemed to be taken out on the children, as many came to school with black eyes and swollen lips. These were generally lower- and lower-middle-class families, and the children seemed uncared for. Many of these children had emotional and therefore behavioral problems. They were moody and often restless and had too much on their minds to be concerned with reading and language arts.

The last group, children with one or two non-English-speaking parents, also had reading problems. Fayetteville is a military city, and so there are a number of military men married to Korean, Vietnamese, German, and Panamanian women who could speak little, if any, English. They certainly could not read any English, and so the children again were deprived of parental support and encouragement. These children's main problem was that they confused words and sounds between the language spoken at home and the language taught at school.

There were, of course, children who did not fall into any of these three categories, and there were some who fit more than one. The greatest percentage of the reading students, though, was apparent victims of their environments.

Cynthia Packman

PRACTICE EXERCISE

The following suggestions lend themselves to writing both types of cause/effect essays. Choose one, making sure your purpose is to examine either the results of your topic (cause-to-effect) or the reasons for your topic (effect-to-cause), and write your essay.

Poverty

Alcoholism

War

Divorce

Crime

Suicide

Writing Center