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Causes and Effects of Essay Writing

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Introduction

Essay writing forms an integral part of any successful academic curriculum which every student is required to undertake. Essays are short writing articles that aim at sharpening the skills of students regarding their persuasion, comparison, and contrast, analysis, in-depth reading or even exposition. According to Purdue Online Writing Lab (2013), there are four common types of essays, and these are descriptive, expository, argumentative and narrative essays. A cause and effect essay is a form of expository essay and forms the basis of this academic article. This article, therefore, attempts to pay a closer look at this kind of essay.

Cause and Effect Essay

Roy and Haney (2011) indicate that a cause and effect essay attempts to illustrate how the occurrence of once action cause the happening of another action. They note that this type of essay employs the use of facts to explain just how a particular cause results in an effect. Hogan (2012) indicates that a cause and effect essay is often utilized to analyze, show or explain a particular

subject matter. Hogan states that cause is that which occasions the occurrence of something while an effect is that which happens as a result of something. According to Hogan, unity and coherence are best achieved when the focus is on either causes or effects. As such, this type of essay aims at establishing relationships by linking a certain cause to a particular effect.

A cause and effect essay serves to determine how certain events relate to each other. The aim of this type of research, therefore, is to establish the link between the origin and the result of a certain event. More often than not, there is a clarity of connection between a cause and its effect. However, the process of establishing the relationship between the cause and the effect is a difficult one because an effect may come about as a result of several causes. As such, a cause and effect essay attempts to match an effect with its cause (Hogan, 2012).

Writing a Cause and Effect Essay

Authors of a cause and effect essay aim at giving a detailed analysis of the causes and resultant effects of a given subject matter. The establishment of causes and effects should satisfy the following criteria. Firstly, causes and effects ought to be logical, believable and real in the eyes of the reader. Secondly, there has to be a direct relationship between the causes and effects. In essence, the concept of marriage should be upheld in this type of essay such that a certain outcome is a direct result of a certain cause (Purdue Online Writing Lab, 2013).

The introduction of a cause and effect essay provides valuable background information about the topic in question. It also aims at arresting and engaging the interest of the reader. The introduction is usually short and full of general statements that justify the choice of the topic (College Lax, 2012). The statement of the thesis, according to Hogan (2012), highlights the topic while identifying on which side (cause or effect) the author intends to focus. The body of a cause and effect essay, on the other hand, gives a detailed look at the causes and effects that form the

thesis statement. Conventionally, three to five causes and effects are preferred in an ideal situation. Paragraphs in support of the causes and effects are organized in a reverse pecking order. As such, paragraphs begin with the least important and end with the most important.

According to College Lax (2012), the concluding paragraph of a cause and effect essay typically brings the discussion to an end. It, therefore, does not offer an opportunity for the author to establish new ideas. Different methods can be used to conclude a cause and effect essay and these include summarizing, remarking, observing or restating. The ending paragraph offers an overview in hindsight of the key ideas that the author has discussed earlier.

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