



Palm Beach Atlantic University  
Center for Writing Excellence

## Cause and Effect Essays

**A Cause and Effect Essay explains the reasons (causes) or results (effects) of an event or situation**

1. Ways to organize a cause and effect essay:

a. Multiple Causes → Effect

- i. The thesis names the effect being discussed.
- ii. Each paragraph explains one cause of this effect.

b. Cause → Multiple Effects

- i. The thesis names the cause being discussed.
- ii. Each paragraph explains one effect of this cause.

c. Causal Chain/Domino

- i. One event leads to another, many things being both causes *and* effects.
- ii. Each paragraph is one major point on the causal chain.

2. Words to use:

a. Cause words: because, since, as, due to, because of, the effect of, the consequence of, as a result of, etc.

b. Effect words: so, as a result, as a consequence, therefore, thus, hence, to cause, to result in, to affect, the cause of, the reason for, etc.