

Peer-Editing Worksheet: Cause and Effect

1. Paraphrase the essay's thesis. Is it explicitly stated? Should it be?

2. Does the essay focus on causes, effects, or both? Does the thesis statement clearly identify this focus? If not, how should the thesis statement be revised?

3. Does the writer consider all relevant causes and/or effects? Are any key causes or effects omitted?

Are any irrelevant causes or effects included?

4. Make an informal outline of the essay on the back of this form.
What determines the order in which the causes and/or effects are arranged? Is this the most effective order? If not, what revisions do you suggest?

5. What transitional words and phrases are used to indicate causal connections? List them below.
Are any additional transitions needed? If so, where?

6. Does the writer avoid post hoc reasoning? Are all causal connections logical?

7. Does the writer explain each cause and/or effect clearly and convincingly? Are more examples or details needed to help readers understand causal connections? If so, where?

8. Do you agree with the writer's assessment of the cause-and-effect relationships examined in this essay? Do you agree with his or her conclusions? Why or why not?

9. Are any sentences worded in an imprecise, unclear, or awkward manner? If so, put boxes around these. Choose one to rewrite here.

10. Are any words used incorrectly? If so, suggest substitutes. Check your peer's paper for improper use of homonyms (two/to/too, their/they're/there, its/it's, etc.)