

Rhetorical Modes of Writing

A rhetorical mode of writing is a particular way of presenting a set of ideas or structuring an argument. There are several rhetorical modes of writing, all used to order ideas into certain patterns that will have a particular effect on the reader. Here, we will focus on **Cause and Effect Essays**.

Cause and Effect Essays

Cause and Effect essays, like all rhetorical modes of writing, involve a certain way of presenting facts and structuring your writing. Like their name suggests, these essays help outline a correlation between events: between a **cause** and the **effect** that is its result.

*For example: **Because you left the gate open**, **the dog ran into the road**.*



As such, cause and effect essays are used for topics where an understanding of different factors leading up to an event, and the event itself, are crucial.

For example: Why was Nelson Mandela imprisoned during apartheid? How many years was he imprisoned for and what happened when he was released?

Nelson Mandela, as one of the prominent leaders of the African National Congress (ANC) was imprisoned during apartheid for treason. This means that he and those who were sent to jail with him were planning to overthrow the apartheid system

and institute democracy in South Africa. He was arrested and imprisoned for 27 years. His release on 12 February 1990 was a sign that the apartheid government was ready to negotiate with the ANC and other liberation movements. This resulted in South Africa's first democratic election in 1994, which signalled the end of apartheid.

Cause	Effect
Nelson Mandela trying to institute democracy in SA during apartheid.	Nelson Mandela arrested for treason and imprisoned for 27 years.
Nelson Mandela released from prison.	Negotiations start, leading to SA's first democratic election.
SA's first democratic election happens on 27 April 1994.	Apartheid ends and South Africa becomes a democratic country.

There are certain **linking words** that are used commonly in cause and effect essays to indicate either a cause or an effect. Below is a list of some of these words, with sentences showing how to use them.

word	example sentence
because	Zoleka went to the concert only because Miranda was going as well.
first, second, third, etc	Jimmy jumped off the hill first ; Stephen jumped after him.
if	If Sinazo practises every day, she could audition for the orchestra.
because of	Because of the accident, Fikile is scared to drive by herself.
due to	We received detention due to the fact that we were making a noise.
owing to	Owing to the long queue, their entry was delayed.
since	Jason has not spoken since his best friend moved away.
unless	They will lose unless they score two

	more points.
as a result	As a result of Tando's behaviour, the whole class was punished.
for this reason	Jenny is allergic to nuts. For this reason , she does not eat them.
thus	Nolwazi committed a crime. Thus , she will be sent to prison.
consequently	The floor was wet. Consequently , someone slipped and broke their leg.
therefore	I love movies; therefore I go to the cinema at least once a week.
in view of	Miranda is scared of insects. In view of this , she never goes hiking.

See if you can't make more sentences using some of these words.