

Essay #3: Research-Supported Causes or Effects

Summary of assignment

Task: Analyze causes *or* effects of a phenomenon in an essay supported by research. Choose a topic related to your field of study or a field of study that interests you.

Length: 1500-2000 words

Format: APA

Sources: Minimum of 6. At least 3 of these must be from scholarly journals, and all sources should be selected based on reliability, currency, and level of information/analysis. The UMUC library will be very useful in helping you find appropriate sources.

Outcomes you should achieve by completing this assignment

As you complete the tasks required for this assignment, you will be working towards the various course outcomes:

- Use research to write an essay on causes or effects that will inform or persuade an audience (Course outcome 1)
- Form unified, coherent, and well-supported paragraphs in support of the thesis statement (Course outcome 2)
- Select sources, use them to inform and support your writing, and document them in APA style (Course outcome 4)
- Demonstrate accurate grammar and mechanics in writing (Course outcome 3)
- Participate in the process of receiving feedback and revising your writing (Course outcome 1)

Choosing a topic

This assignment asks you to write about either causes *or* effects of a phenomenon. Do not try to cover both causes and effects of a phenomenon in your essay. This essay is not long enough to cover both causes and effects in enough detail.

For example, a student could write about various causes of pipeline accidents. This essay's thesis statement and supporting paragraphs would focus only on causes of the accidents. The essay would not go into detail on effects of the pipeline accidents, though it might briefly mention effects, perhaps in the conclusion.

Another possible topic is the effects of exposure to a particular chemical. This essay would focus only on effects. The introduction might briefly mention how exposure occurs, and the

conclusion might briefly mention how to avoid exposure. However, the thesis statement and the supporting paragraphs would focus on effects of exposure.

At the end of these instructions is a list of possible topics to get you started.

Organizing and supporting your essay

As you write your essay, be sure to include the following:

- an engaging introductory paragraph that includes an effective and clear thesis statement
- any definition of terms or background information that your reader is likely to need to understand your paper
- unified, supported, and coherent body paragraphs that defend the thesis
- an effective conclusion

Research is a key element of this paper. Take care to support your claims with research throughout the paper. Include in-text citations whenever you use sources, whether through quote, paraphrase, or summary. A reference list at the end of the paper should list all of the sources cited in the text of the paper.

Point of view

This essay will be written in an academic style. Use third person point of view. Do not use “I” or “you.”

Persuasive or Expository

This essay can be a persuasive essay, in which you try to persuade the reader of a particular position. Or it can be an expository essay in which synthesize different viewpoints on an issue in order to inform the reader. The following examples help illustrate these two approaches.

- A **persuasive** essay on the effects of video games on learning might take the position that video games should be integrated into school science curricula to teach middle school students. The essay would cite articles that demonstrate research studies and other pieces of evidence to support the claim that video games can enhance instruction in science classes and will help middle school students learn science more effectively.
- An **expository** essay on the effects of video games on learning would report on the topic without taking a stand. The essay would synthesize information on this topic, by bringing together various sources and viewpoints. It would summarize and analyze research findings on the impacts of video games on learning.

Formatting your essay

Use APA style to format your essay, including the following guidelines:

- Use one-inch margins.
- Double space.
- Use size 12 Times New Roman font.
- Include a running head.
- Include page numbers.
- Include a title page.
- Use in-text citations in APA format.
- Include a reference list with all sources listed in APA format.

Note: An abstract is *not* required.

Revising your essay

You will submit at least two drafts of your essay. Your instructor will provide feedback on the first draft, and then you will revise and resubmit it. Your instructor may suggest more than two drafts.

Possible topics

By researching and writing this essay, you will have a chance to learn more about your field of study or a field of study that interests you. Expect your research to inform your ideas. Some possible topics for various majors are listed below. You are welcome to choose a topic that is not on this list.

Sciences (environmental management, biotechnology, laboratory management, social science, gerontology, psychology, political science):

- the causes of an environmental problem
- the effects of an environmental problem
- the causes of impaired standing balance in elderly individuals
- the effects of a particular drug on segments of the population
- the effects of exposure to a chemical or microbial agent
- the causes of income inequality in a certain segment of the population or a particular geographic area
- the causes of the British vote to leave the European Union
- the effects of open offices on group productivity in the workplace
- the causes of stress in a particular segment of the population or a particular job
- the effects of social exclusion on the choices consumers make

Computer Information Systems and Technology (computer networks and security, computer science, cybersecurity, digital media and web technology, information systems management):

- the causes for users' difficulty using Google Maps
- the effects of malicious code on networks
- the effects of data breaches on insurance costs or sales
- the causes of cyber attacks against corporations
- the effects of cyber attacks against financial institutions
- the effects of new media on political campaigns
- the impact of social media on interpersonal relationships
- the effects of information technology capability on the ability of organizations to change
- the causes of a particular information systems management problem in a particular industry

Communication, Arts, and Humanities (communication studies and professional writing, East Asian studies, English, graphic communication, history, humanities, foreign language):

- the impact of social media on advertising
- the impact of digital media on student writing
- the causes of the American Civil War
- the effects of the emergence of instructional technology on the teaching of history or humanities
- the causes of a language change (e.g., a pronunciation shift, a grammatical development, etc.)

Business and Professional Program (accounting, business administration, finance, global business and public policy, human resource management, management studies, marketing, criminal justice, emergency management, fire service administration, homeland security, investigative forensics, legal studies):

- the effects of the International Financial Reporting Standards on accounting quality
- the causes of the emergence of ethics courses in accounting in the past 10-20 years
- the effects of the Internet or day trading on stock prices
- the causes of instability in financial markets in a particular industry
- the causes of employee turnover in a particular industry
- the effects of cause-related marketing plans
- the effects of tourism marketing on tourism patterns
- the effects of sports marketing on the entertainment industry
- the effect of crime television shows on verdicts made in court cases or on other aspects of the criminal justice system
- the effects of a particular development in infrastructure on emergency management response
- the causes of a particular school safety issue