The Cause/Effect Essay Assignment

Cause and effect writing seeks to determine reasons and predict results; “to examine causes and describe effects, or do both”. On a deeper level, Cause and Effect writing “analyzes why something happened” (Patterns327).

Cause and Effect Patterns:

• One Cause/ One Effect
• One Cause/ Many Effects
• One Effect/ Many Causes
• Causal Chain

For the C/E essay, you are to (1) select a topic suitable to your purpose; (2) select a C/E pattern; (3) thoroughly research your topic and complete the essay planning pages; and (4) draft a 500 word essay using Microsoft Word. Include a minimum of three (3) sources of support and MLA in-text citation of all borrowed material. Be sure to provide citation for all borrowed information, to place quotes within quotation marks, and to thoroughly edit your work before submitting it for a grade. Remember to check your word count also to ensure that your essay meets the **500 word minimum** requirement, and does not exceed the **550 word maximum**: word count begins at the first word of your introduction and ends at the last word of your conclusion. Remember, it does not matter whether or not you think you need sources to support your essay; they are required, and failing to include
them will result in you getting a ZERO on this assignment. Please review the minimum assignment requirements prior to submission.

BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR PAPER, PLEASE REVIEW THESE POINTS

1. Is your thesis clearly stated, and does each paragraph begin with a topic sentence which expands one of the points of your thesis?

2. Are causes clearly stated, logically organized, and supported by details?

3. Are conflicting interpretations disproved or acknowledged, and are each of your main points supported by a source and MLA in-text citation?

4. Are effects supported by observation and evidence? Do you avoid sweeping generalizations and unsupported conclusions?

5. Do you anticipate future changes that might alter your predictions/assertions?

6. Do you avoid making errors in critical thinking, especially hasty generalizations and confusing a time relationship for a cause and effect relationship?

7. Have you tested your ideas through peer review?

8. Does your submission include your essay and a works cited page containing a minimum of three different supporting sources?

9. Have you thoroughly proofed and edited your essay using spellcheck and grammar check?

10. Having done all these things, submit in good faith!

As always, I encourage you to pursue your interests, and to explore new territory in your writing.
500 Word Count Minimum: The essay has to be at least 500 words and it cannot exceed 550 words. The word count begins with the first word of the introduction and ends with the last word of the conclusion (Names, headings, and titles are not included in the word count). Thanks

Submit Microsoft Word attachments only