

## Causal Analysis Organization--Causes

**THESIS STATEMENT:** A whole-idea statement that acts as the "umbrella"—the main idea—of your essay.

### [Introductory paragraphs]

- I. Introductory paragraph, creating interest in the topic (AGD). Defines and clearly explains the event/phenomenon/condition the essay will examine and discuss. It may show the effects as a way of establishing the importance of understanding the causes.
- II. Explains in summary the background and history of the condition/phenomenon/trend in modern society (but doesn't explain the causes yet). Explains the importance of determining the causes of the trend/condition/phenomenon (sets a purpose for your essay). **Presents a clear and strong thesis statement.**

### [Body Paragraphs—Causes, in order by chronology or importance]

**III. First cause:** Transitional topic sentence(s) with a clearly stated cause. You can organize by a causal chain from proximate to direct (precipitating) cause, or in the inverse order.

A. discussion/evidence/explanations

1. details listed (do not have to be whole idea statements)
2. whenever you break an idea, you will have two parts; wholes break into at least two

B. discussion/evidence/explanations

1. details listed (do not have to be whole idea statements)
2. whenever you break an idea, you will have two parts; wholes break into at least two
3. list all the details, examples, explanations, and evidence you will use in your essay

C. discussion/evidence/explanations

1. details listed (do not have to be whole idea statements)
2. whenever you break an idea, you will have two parts; wholes break into at least two

**IV. Next cause:** Transitional topic sentence(s) with clearly stated cause.

A. discussion/evidence/explanations

1. details listed (do not have to be whole idea statements)
2. whenever you break an idea, you will have two parts; wholes break into at least two

B. discussion/evidence/explanations

1. details listed (do not have to be whole idea statements)
2. whenever you break an idea, you will have two parts; wholes break into at least two
3. list all the details, examples, explanations, and evidence you will use in your essay

C. discussion/evidence/explanations

1. details listed (do not have to be whole idea statements)
2. whenever you break an idea, you will have two parts; wholes break into at least two

**(V.+.) Next cause:** Transitional topic sentence(s) with clearly stated cause.

A. discussion/evidence/explanations

1. details listed (do not have to be whole idea statements)
2. whenever you break an idea, you will have two parts; wholes break into at least two

B. discussion/evidence/explanations

1. details listed (do not have to be whole idea statements)
2. whenever you break an idea, you will have two parts; wholes break into at least two
3. list all the details, examples, explanations, and evidence you will use in your essay

C. discussion/evidence/explanations

1. details listed (do not have to be whole idea statements)
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## **[Closing Paragraphs—Final Assessment and Conclusions]**

**VI. Predictions:** You might give various future societal consequences (positive and/or negative) if the trend, phenomenon, or condition continues to occur or escalate.

**VII. Call to Action:** You might explain actions and involvement needed from citizens/agencies/authorities to prevent or encourage possible outcomes. Your conclusion might state the importance of taking action or further research into issues pertaining to this trend/phenomenon, and propose a future focus or action.

**VIII. Wrap-up:** Reiterates the essay's main point (without being repetitive) and concludes the essay in a summative and memorable way (just as the AGD opened the essay).