Cause and Effect

What are the causes?

Something Happens
Event, situation, behavior,
perception, condition, trend

What are the effects?

Reasons Why

Possible Results

Keep the following points in mind as you write:

**Assignment:** Carefully read your assignment. Are you required to write about only causes, only effects, or both causes and effects?

**Logic:** Consider the logic of your ideas and the relationships among them. For instance, do not assume that an event or situation causes another simply because one follows the other in chronological order.

**Organization:** To sequence your ideas, use emphatic order (weakest to strongest cause/effect) or chronological order (time). Further, if your paper covers both causes and effects, you can shape the logic of your ideas in one of the following ways:

1. Inductively—proceeding from causes to effects
2. Deductively—starting with effects and then discussing causes