

The Causation Essay (LEQ)

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What is it?

A causation essay is an essay that identifies and analyzes causes and effects.

- Cause = something that leads to something else
- Effect = something that happens as a result of something else

What do I need to do?

I need to figure out the causes or effects of an event or time period.

Helpful Videos & Links

[How to write an LEQ \(Heimler\)](#)

[LEQ Rubric \(Tom Richey\)](#)

Sample Sentences

Thesis Statement

1. _____ had a significant impact on _____ REGION _____ during _____ TIME PERIOD _____ because CLAIM 1 and CLAIM 2.
2. _____ was caused by many things, specifically CLAIM 1 and CLAIM 2.

There are SO MANY possible thesis options here - Just make sure that you are ANSWERING the question. And that you have TWO CLAIMS.

What should this essay look like? (Format)

Note #1: This is a GUIDE. It is meant to help you if you are stuck. It is absolutely not the only way to write a strong and high-scoring essay. Use it to help you out, but do not sacrifice your own writing style or skills to try to fit your answer into this format. You are in AP for a reason - Trust your instincts.

Note #2: Creating a general format for a causation essay is difficult because there is such a large variety of prompts that you could be faced with. The key here is to make sure that you remain focused on addressing the prompt throughout your ENTIRE essay.

- I. Introduction Paragraph
 - A. Contextualization: What happened immediately before the prompt?
 - B. Thesis Statement with two claims
- II. Contextualization Paragraph: What is the big picture here?
 - A. Suggestion #1:

Discuss what happened BEFORE THE TIME PERIOD and how those events LED TO the events in your thesis (how/why)
 - B. Suggestion #2:

Discuss what happened DURING THE TIME PERIOD, in a place not mentioned in the prompt, and how those events LED TO the events in your thesis (how/why)
- III. Body Paragraph 1 = Claim #1
 - A. Evidence
 1. What facts do you know about the claim that you are making?
 - B. Analysis
 1. What larger events or ideas led up to the facts that you are discussing?
 2. Why did these causes or effects occur? Why didn't something else happen instead?
 3. How does this claim support or connect to your overall thesis?
- IV. Body Paragraph 2 = Claim #2
 - A. Evidence
 1. What facts do you know about the claim that you are making?
 - B. Analysis
 1. What larger events or ideas led up to the facts that you are discussing?
 2. Why did these causes or effects occur? Why didn't something else happen instead?
 3. How does this claim support or connect to your overall thesis?
- V. Conclusion
 - A. Restate thesis statement
 - B. Contextualization: What legacy does this leave behind AFTER the time period of the prompt?