

Outline Template – Organizing a Causal Chain Essay

I. Introduction

- Introduce the topic and provide background information

Example: The effects of technology on human relationships

- State the thesis statement, which should clearly state the causal chain you will explore

Example: "The increasing use of technology has resulted in a decline in face-to-face communication, leading to a breakdown in personal relationships."

II. Cause 1: Increased use of technology

- Provide a topic sentence that clearly states the first cause:

Example: "The widespread use of technology has led to a decrease in face-to-face communication."

- Present evidence and examples to support the cause:

Example: Statistics on the use of smartphones, social media, and other technology that has reduced the amount of time people spend interacting in person

- Explain how this cause leads to the next cause in the chain:

Example: As people spend more time on their devices, they have fewer opportunities to engage in face-to-face communication.

III. Effect 1: Decreased social skills

- Provide a topic sentence that clearly states the first effect:

Example: "The decline in face-to-face communication has resulted in decreased social skills."

- Present evidence and examples to support the effect:

Example: Studies that have shown a correlation between heavy technology use and poor social skills, such as difficulty with eye contact, active listening, and interpreting nonverbal cues

- Explain how this effect leads to the next effect in the chain:

Example: When people lack strong social skills, they may struggle to build and maintain personal relationships.

IV. Cause 2: Reduced personal interactions

- Provide a topic sentence that clearly states the second cause:

Example: "The decrease in face-to-face communication has led to reduced personal interactions."

- Present evidence and examples to support the cause:

Example: Stories of people relying on technology for socializing instead of meeting in person, leading to isolation and loneliness

- Explain how this cause leads to the next cause in the chain:

Example: When people have fewer personal interactions, they may be less likely to form close bonds and may feel more disconnected from their communities.

V. Effect 2: Increased loneliness and depression

- Provide a topic sentence that clearly states the second effect:

Example: "The reduction in personal interactions has resulted in increased loneliness and depression."

- Present evidence and examples to support the effect:

Example: Research showing a correlation between heavy technology use and increased rates of depression and feelings of loneliness

- Explain how this effect leads to the next effect in the chain:

Example: When people feel lonely and depressed, they may withdraw further from personal relationships, perpetuating the cycle.

VI. Cause 3: Lack of empathy

- Provide a topic sentence that clearly states the third cause:

Example: "The decline in face-to-face communication has led to a lack of empathy."

- Present evidence and examples to support the cause: “

Example: Studies showing that people who rely heavily on technology may have lower levels of empathy, possibly due to the reduced opportunity to practice social skills and interpret nonverbal cues

- Explain how this cause leads to the next cause in the chain:

Example: When people lack empathy, they may have a harder time forming meaningful connections with others.

VII. Effect 3: Difficulty in building and maintaining personal relationships

- Provide a topic sentence that clearly states the third effect:

Example: "The lack of empathy has resulted in difficulty in building and maintaining personal relationships."

- Present evidence and examples to support the effect:

Example: Stories of people who struggle to connect with others due to their reliance on technology or lack of social skills

- Explain the final outcome or consequence of the causal chain:

Example: When people have difficulty building and maintaining personal relationships, they may miss out on the emotional support, sense of belonging, and other benefits of social connections.

VIII. Conclusion

- Summarize the main points of the essay, highlighting the causal chain from technology use to declining personal relationships
- Restate the thesis statement in a new way, emphasizing the impact
- Conclude with a final thought or call to action

This template presents a specific structure for a causal chain essay. You can adjust the number of causes and effects in your essay based on the complexity of your topic, but make sure to present them in a logical and coherent order to help your readers follow the cause-and-effect relationship.