

Causal Arguments

- Topics and Methods of Development -

1) Identify Causal Topic

a. One-Time Event

- Supreme Court decision
- New fee or tax
- Industrial accident
- Medical epidemic

b. Natural Phenomenon

- Extinction of a species
- Rise of disorder
- Extreme weather (hurricanes, drought, earthquakes)
- Increasing rates of disease

c. Behavior of Individuals – “Why do people. . . ?”

- Text while driving
- Join terrorists organizations
- Smoke
- Not go to college

d. Puzzling Trends– “Why do we see more. . . ?”

- Body piercing or tattooing
- Addictions (alcohol, prescription medications, the Internet)
- School shootings
- Bullying incidents

e. A New or On-going Problem

- Congressional gridlock
- Failure of a business
- Search engine tracking
- Student debt
- Racial intolerance

f. Essays from *Models for Writers*

- Political or Geopolitical issue – “The Famine of Bengal”
- Popular Culture issue – “Why We Crave Horror Movies”
- American Culture issue – “Why and When We Speak Spanish in Public”
- Health or Medical issue – “Stuck on the Couch”

2) Establish the Most Appropriate Method to Develop Your Argument. As You Sketch Ideas, Avoid “Of Course” Thinking.