

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.