

## Peer Review – CAUSE-EFFECT ESSAY

Peer doing the evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_

Paper is by: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of paper being reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Read through your partner's essay twice. The first time familiarize yourself with the subject of the essay- the place or object being described. The second time, read for the essentials we discussed in class: the qualities of good writing, as well as effective description and narration. Mark the essay as you read and add questions or comments on the writing. Then, please answer the following questions as completely as possible. Do not just give the paper and writer the stamp of approval, or a "yes" or "no" answer - you will be doing your partner a disservice. When you are done, make a copy to place in your daily work portfolio due at the end of the semester; you will be graded on thoroughness of your responses. Then give the original to your partner use this to revise his/her paper, and place in his/her essay portfolio.

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**THESIS STATEMENT:** Is there a clear thesis on a current issue or topic? Is it specific, narrowed, focused? Is issue being analyzed clearly stated? Are causes and/or effects for the issue clearly stated? Is the thesis one sentence and the LAST SENTENCE in the introduction? Suggestions for improvement?

**INTRO/CONCLUSION:** Is the introduction effective and interesting? Does the author use a catchy introduction such as a case history or relevant statistics to catch the reader's attention? Suggestions for improvement? Does the conclusion add a note of finality?

**DEVELOPMENT:** Does the body of the paper support thesis and stay on topic? Does it clearly and convincingly analyze and develop the causes and/or effects stated in the thesis? Is the paper developed enough? Logical fallacies avoided, especially post hoc fallacies? Are the causes/effects reasonable and not too far fetched? Are there relevant causes/effects to the issue that the author has neglected? Is the paper at least four full pages long? Suggestions for improvement?

**ORGANIZATION/COHERENCE:** Does the paper "flow"? Are the ideas stated in logical order? Are the transitions between sentences and ideas effective and clear? Is the paper itself clear and understandable or confusing? Suggestions for improvement?

**STYLE:** What do you think of the style and tone of the paper? Is the tone balanced, unemotional, and unbiased? Is the sentence structure too simple or too convoluted? Is it difficult to follow? Is the word choice specific and interesting or dull and general?

**MECHANICS? Grammar. punctuation. spelling?** Mark on author's paper and note here some persistent problems he needs to address:

**APA FORMAT:** Is paper word-processed with correct font and margins and formatted APA style with title page, abstract, paper itself with **in-text citations**, and **references page**? (These last two MUST be present or paper receives a zero.)  
Running head?

**IN-TEXT CITATIONS:** Is all evidence that is not common knowledge cited correctly at the end of the sentence: **parenthesis, author's last name or shortened title, year, p. # if a quote, close parenthesis, period**. Does each in-text citation have a corresponding references page entry? **NO** web addresses in the in-text citations? Are there at least two citations per page? Are quotes minimized?

**REFERENCES PAGE:** Does the author have a references page(s) at the end of her paper with all references listed in alphabetical order in correct APA style? Are there at least **four** sources used?

**OVERALL?** What is your overall impression of the essay? What did the author do especially well? What do you like about it? Suggestions for improvement?