

STARTING POINTS: ARGUING FOR CAUSES OR EFFECTS

A Well-Presented Subject

How do I come up with a subject to write about?

- Consider possible topics: Popular culture. (p. 401)
- Consider possible topics: Self-destructive behavior. (p. 409)
- Consider possible topics: Current events. (p. 416)
- Choose a subject to analyze. (pp. 420–21)
- Test Your Choice: Choosing a Topic (p. 421)

How can I present my subject clearly and effectively?

- Determine the writer's purpose and audience. (p. 387)
- Assess the genre's basic features: A well-presented subject. (p. 388)
- A Well-Presented Subject: Reframing the Subject for Readers (p. 399)
- A Well-Presented Subject: Using Examples to Reframe the Subject (p. 407)
- A Well-Presented Subject: Using Anecdote to Dramatize the Subject (p. 414)
- Present the subject to your readers. (p. 422)
- A Troubleshooting Guide: A Well-Presented Subject (p. 433)

A Well-Supported Causal Analysis

How do I come up with a list of possible causes to explore?

- Analyze possible causes or effects. (p. 423)
- Conduct research. (p. 424)

A Well-Supported Causal Analysis

How can I convince my readers that the causes I identify are plausible?

- Assess the genre's basic features: A well-supported causal analysis. (pp. 388–89)
- A Well-Supported Causal Analysis: Using Examples and Comparisons (p. 399)
- A Well-Supported Causal Analysis: Using a Variety of Sources (p. 408)
- A Well-Supported Causal Analysis: Using a Source (pp. 414–15)
- Analyze possible causes or effects. (p. 423)
- Conduct research. (p. 424)
- Cite a variety of sources to support your causal analysis. (p. 425)
- Formulate a working thesis stating your preferred cause(s) or effect(s). (pp. 425–26)

An Effective Response to Objections and Alternative Causes or Effects

How do I deal with my readers' likely objections or alternative causes?

- Assess the genre's basic features: An effective response to objections and alternative causes or effects. (pp. 389–90)
- An Effective Response: Putting Aside Obvious Causes or Effects (p. 400)
- An Effective Response: Presenting, Conceding, and Refuting Opposing Views (p. 408)
- An Effective Response: Using Counterexamples (p. 415)
- Draft a response to objections readers are likely to raise. (pp. 426–27)
- Draft a response to the causes your readers are likely to favor. (427–28)
- A Troubleshooting Guide: An Effective Response (p. 433)

A Clear, Logical Organization

How can I help my readers follow my argument?

- Assess the genre's basic features: A clear, logical organization. (pp. 390–91)
- A Clear, Logical Organization: Using Cause-Effect Sentence Strategies (p. 400)
- A Clear, Logical Organization: Using Headings and Other Strategies (p. 409)
- A Clear, Logical Organization: Using Rhetorical Questions (pp. 415–16)
- Create an outline that will organize your causal analysis effectively for your readers. (p. 429)
- A Troubleshooting Guide: A Clear, Logical Organization (p. 434)