



INTRODUCTIONS

Cause and Effect Essays

PURPOSE

1. Attract the reader's attention
2. Imply an organizational structure
3. Include the thesis (specific idea) of the essay



AN OVERVIEW

Opening sentence – Attracts reader's attention & informs reader of general topic

Background information – Gives information related to general topic and serves as a transition to specific topic in thesis sentence

Thesis sentence – Tells reader the specific topic and organizational pattern



AN OVERVIEW (CONT.)

Opening sentence: To work or not to work?

Background information: That is the question that many teenagers ask themselves, especially during high school. Surveys show that more than two-thirds of high school students in the United States hold part-time jobs.

Thesis sentence: These teenagers have all kinds of reasons for working, and the consequences can be positive or negative or – to make things more confusing – both.



OPENING SENTENCES

- Quotation
- Scenario/anecdote – hypothetical or real examples illustrating the topic
- Inquiry/question – thought provoking, maybe even edgy, questions capturing the reader's attention
- Preparatory definition/explanation – definition or explanation of the subject



QUOTATION

Napoleon Bonaparte once said, “Give me an army of goats led by a lion, but don’t give me an army of lions led by a goat.” One hundred seventy-five years later, an Arab leader who considered himself a modern-day Napoleon appeared on all the Arabic TV channels to announce his great victory over Iran. Saddam Husain thought that his powerful army could never be stopped, so on 2 Aug 1990 he gave the order to his “goats” to invade Kuwait. During the seven months that Kuwait was ruled by the Iraqi regime, three major factors turned a once beautiful country into a wasteland.



SCENARIO/ANECDOTE

It is 5:45 a.m., time to get up. “Mom, just a little longer,” Sarah begs. Six o’clock rolls around, and then 6:25 arrives. “Okay, Mom, I’m getting up,” Sarah says as she forces her sleepy eyes open. She springs out of bed and tries to get ready in time to leave at 7:00. She skips breakfast, a mistake she will later regret. This is Sarah’s typical morning. She is just one of many high school students who have expressed concerns about the starting time for school. Their concerns are justified, for starting school too early negatively affects students in three ways.



INQUIRY/QUESTION

To work or not to work? That is the question that many teenagers ask themselves, especially during high school. Surveys show that more than two-thirds of high school students in the United States hold part-time jobs. These teenagers have all kinds of reasons for working, and the consequences can be positive or negative or – to make things more confusing – both.



PREPARATORY DEFINITION/EXPLANATION

The majority of high schools have kept a starting time that was begun in the 1920's when students needed to get back to their farms to tend to chores. This means that class still starts at 7:30 a.m., which current research proves is the worst time for the teen mind. Why then do schools continue to use a system that people know does not work well for the very students that the schools are trying to teach?

