Cause & Effect Scoring Guide

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Organization	The introduction contains a clearly stated thesis/claim; the body skillfully examines the topic by breaking it down into causes and/or effects; the conclusion effectively ends the writing, without repetition, and may contain a clincher statement.	The introduction contains thesis/claim; the body examines the topic by breaking it down into causes and/or effects; the conclusion brings the writing to a close; there is a generally logical progression of ideas and information.	The introduction contains a thesis/claim, but it may be unclear, imprecise, or inadequate; the body explains at least one cause and/or effect; a conclusion is present but may be weak or repetitive; more logical development is needed throughout.	The introduction lacks a thesis/claim, or it is misleading or unclear; the body does not explain causes and effects; the conclusion is missing, contradictory, or repetitive; the writing lacks unity and coherence.
Elements of Cause and Effect Writing	The overall purpose is clear; causes and effects are logical; cause-effect transition words and phrases are used effectively.	Overall purpose is generally clear; most causes and effects are logical; there is some use of specific cause-effect transition words.	The purpose is not always obvious; causes and effects are not entirely clear or logical; there is little or no use of cause-effect transition words.	The purpose is not clear; causes and effects are illogical or missing; the writing lacks cause-effect transition words and phrases.
Grammar, Usage, Mechanics, and Spelling	There are few or no errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling.	There are some errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling	Errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling interfere with the audience's understanding of the process.	Serious and numerous errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling make understand the essay very difficult.
Style (Voice/Word Choice)	The writer has chosen a voice appropriate for the topic, purpose, and audience. The writer demonstrates deep commitment to the topic. The writing is expressive, engaging, or sincere. Word choice is consistently precise and impactful.	A voice is present. The writer seems committed to the topic, and there may be a sense of "writing to be read." In places, the writing is expressive, engaging, or sincere.	The writer's commitment to the topic seems inconsistent. A sense of the writer may emerge at times; however, the voice is at time either inappropriate or ineffective. Many words are imprecise, redundant, or confusing.	The writing provides little sense of involvement or commitment. There is no evidence that the writer has chosen a suitable voice. Word choices are mostly imprecise, redundant, or confusing.
Sentence Fluency	The writing has an effective flow and rhythm. Sentences show a high degree of craftsmanship, with consistently strong and varied structure that makes expressive oral reading easy and enjoyable.	The writing flows; however, connections between phrases or sentences may be less than fluid. Sentence patterns are somewhat varied, contributing to ease in oral reading.	The writing tends to be mechanical rather than fluid. Occasional awkward constructions may force the reader to slow down or reread.	The writing tends to be either choppy or rambling. Awkward constructions often force the reader to slow down or reread.