

2. Can you follow the writer's line of reasoning? Do you accept the cause the writer asserts? Why or why not?
3. What other support strategies could the writer employ? (Consider examples, allusions, scenarios, and so on. See pages 254–257.)
4. Mark any paragraphs that shift focus from one point about the subject to another.
5. If the writer uses outside sources, are they integrated smoothly into the argument? (See pages 467–477 in Chapter 16: Integrating and Documenting Sources for specific strategies.)
6. Consider the writer's voice.
 - a. Identify any passages that seem preachy.
 - b. Does the writer seem credible? What passages support your decision?
 - c. Identify a passage that seems flat, without intensity. Suggest a strategy for the writer to create a sense of wonder.
7. What sentences and phrases could gain vitality and intensity? Consider the strategies explained in Chapter 19: Vitalizing Sentences. For example:
 - Look for unnecessary interrupting clauses and phrases. Underline them and/or draw an arrow to show where the phrase or clause can be moved.
 - Cross out wordy phrases and write in more concise options.
 - What sentences are over-embedded? (Point to any clauses that overlap with other clauses, causing a disconnect between ideas.)
 - Examine attributive phrases. Point out unnecessary phrases or sentences that could be boiled down.
 - Where can the writer change linking verbs to action verbs?
 - Where can the writer avoid drawing attention to *I* and *you*?
 - Help the writer change unnecessary clauses to phrases and phrases to words.
 - Point to expletives (such as *there are* and *it is*).
 - Help the writer change passive verbs to active verbs for more vitality.

Reflection

Writing about a cause can have consequences for readers, the writer, and a community as a whole. To consider the possible consequences of your essay, reflect on its rhetoric:

1. The chapter introduction states that “people searching for causes are detectives attempting to find answers amid a dizzying array of possibilities.” As a detective, what answer did you find?