

Cause and Effect

Each essay in this chapter uses cause and effect to get its main idea across. As you read these essays, consider how they achieve the Four Basics of Good Cause and Effect that are listed below and discussed in Chapter 17 of this book.

Four Basics of Good Cause and Effect

- 1 The main point reflects the writer's purpose—to explain causes, effects, or both.
- 2 If the purpose is to explain causes, it presents real causes.
- 3 If the purpose is to explain effects, it presents real effects.
- 4 It gives clear and detailed examples or explanations of the causes and/or effects.

Amy L. Beck

Struggling for Perfection

Amy L. Beck was born in 1979 in Greenwich, Connecticut. After graduating from Harvard University in 2000, Beck joined Teach for America, a program that places recent college graduates in inner-city or rural schools, and she taught first graders in Long Beach, California, for two years. She has also worked in France as a researcher for the travel guide *Let's Go* and as an intern with the French Public Health Administration. Beck is currently a pediatrician at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center.

In "Struggling for Perfection," which she wrote for the *Harvard Crimson* in 1998, Beck explores eating disorders and domestic abuse. How are these two problems linked? According to Beck, they are both partly caused by media images.

Guiding question What is the cause-and-effect relationship that Beck writes about?