

Sanelli

English 1C

ESSAY #4 CAUSAL ARGUMENT: HOW DID IT GET THAT WAY?

FINAL PAPER LENGTH: 7-8 PAGES (Works Cited is page 9)

A claim about how something happened can be made in any context. Based on the terms and ideas from Malcolm Gladwell's book, *The Tipping Point*, and Chapter 7 in your class text *Rhetoric of Argument*, write a cause/analysis essay that examines, explains and argues about a current trend that you find interesting.

EXPLAIN THE TERM THAT YOU USED FROM GLADWELL.

After you have researched and analyzed the trend, decide on the purpose of **your argument**. Please note that you are writing an argument based in causal analysis, **not** a report on your chosen trend. Are you trying to give a full explanation of all the various conditions and factors, actions, and intentions that brought something about? Are you making a prediction? Are you investigating causes because you want to make something happen or stop it from happening? Your thesis should clearly argue for at least one (if not more) of these purposes and should be one sentence at the end of your introduction paragraph.

IS IT A GOOD TREND OR A BAD TREND? IS THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE?  
As a writing plan, be sure to keep these steps in mind.

1) Clearly define your trend to your audience.

2) Consider the types of causes: near/proximate; remote; necessary; sufficient; responsibility; absence of a blocking cause; reciprocal causes; chance. Pick one "Frame" and at least two of the models as they are explained in *Rhetoric of Argument*. Please note: regardless of which "Frame" you chose in your analysis, you must name the precipitating cause.

3) Name the basic connections between cause and effect.

4) Include a works cited page following MLA documentation structure. Include Gladwell's book and our class text and all other resources.

WHAT IS THE PRECIPITATING CAUSE?

You must also include in-text citations for all quotations and paraphrases in the body of your paper. Please follow MLA guidelines. This assignment requires that you research current trends, so you will need to include information from a variety of sources, including but not limited to: historical, professional, scholarly and/or academic journals, as well as commercial periodicals and/or websites. You may also include primary sources such as interviews or surveys. Do not rely on commercial websites as your only sources. -SHOW THE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF THIS TREND.

-DO NOT USE ALL COMMERCIAL WEBSITE.

ROUGH DRAFT DUE (2 printed copies): 17 APR

FINAL DRAFT DUE: 22 APR

You must attend two study groups sessions to earn full credit. This is an argumentative causal essay, not a report on your chosen trend, and **NOT** a personal essay. Don't write about yourself.

Organize by actions/events rather than causal terms. Consider audience. Include evidence from research in introduction. Stay current and include minimal historical information.

-DO NOT MAKE THE TOPIC SENTENCE ABOUT THE CONDITION.

-TALK ABOUT THE PROGRESSION OF THE TREND.

-STAY CURRENT BUT TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE HISTORY.