Writing the Cause and Effect Paragraph

For the remainder of the chapter, use one of the paragraph topics below or one given to you by your instructor.

- the effects of not exercising
- the causes of your biggest success
- the effects of quitting a specific bad habit
- the causes of a disappointment you faced
- what causes people to join gangs

Explain

- the effects of not keeping to a budget
- behaviors that lead to student success
- the effects of missing a week of one of your classes
- the effects of gang violence

Step One: Prewrite on a separate paper and then complete the outline below.

TIP: Remember, your supporting sentences can be causes or effects or causes and effects.

Topic Sentence: ____________________________________________________________

Supporting Sentence #1: ____________________________________________________

Specific examples/proof/details:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Supporting Sentence #2: ____________________________________________________

Specific examples/proof/details:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Supporting Sentence #3: ____________________________________________________

Specific examples/proof/details:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Supporting Sentence #4: (if used) ____________________________________________

Specific examples/proof/details:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Concluding Sentence: _________________________________________________________

Step Two: Write the paragraph.

Step Three: Edit and revise the paragraph for content using the checklist as a guide.

- I have given my paragraph a creative title.
- My topic sentence has a clear subject and a clear overall impression.
- I have several supporting sentences that support my topic sentence.
- I have multiple examples for each supporting sentence.
- All of my sentences relate directly to the topic sentence.
- My paragraph is organized in a logical manner.
- I have used transition words at the beginning of each supporting sentence.
- I have a conclusion that sums up my paragraph.

Remember, editing, revising and proofreading is an ongoing process. You should perform each task several times.

Step Four: Proofread. Proofreading is checking your work for mechanical and grammatical errors.

- I have used the spell and grammar check feature on my computer.
- I have also checked for spelling and grammar errors on my own.
- I have spelled out words rather than abbreviated them.
- I have made sure my subjects and verbs agree in number.
- I have corrected any commonly confused words (their/there/they’re).
- I have checked for run-ons, comma-splines, and fragments.
- I have checked for proper capitalization.
- I have checked for other punctuation errors.
- I have followed MLA format.
- This paragraph represents my best writing.