

Organization Plan 1: Argument Explaining Links in a Causal Chain

Introduce the issue and state your claim.

- Engage reader's interest in your causal issue and show why it is controversial or problematic.
- Show what's at stake.
- State your claim.



Explain the links in the chain going from cause to effect.

- Explain the links and their connections in order.
- Anticipate and respond to possible objections if needed.



Conclude.

- Perhaps sum up your argument.
- Return to the "big picture" of what's at stake.
- End with something memorable.

Organization Plan 2: Argument Proposing Multiple Causes or Consequences of a Phenomenon

Introduce the issue and state your claim.

- Engage reader's interest in your causal issue and show why it is problematic or controversial.
- Show what's at stake.
- State your claim.



Propose relative contributions of different causes of a phenomenon or relative importance of different consequences.

- Describe the first possible cause or consequence and explain your reasoning.
- Continue with the rest of your causes or consequences.
- Arrange causes or consequences in increasing order of importance, significance, or surprise.



Respond to possible objections to your argument (if needed).

- Anticipate and summarize possible objections.
- Respond through rebuttal or concession.



Conclude.

- Perhaps sum up your argument.
- Return to the "big picture" of what's at stake.
- End with something memorable.