



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

STRATEGY: CAUSE AND EFFECT

Strategy Description

A cause is an action or event that makes something else happen. An effect is what happens as the result of that action or event. Understanding cause-and-effect relationships can help students understand why events and actions happen.

Certain words and phrases (such as *because*, *since*, *so*, *as a result*, and *therefore*) are sometimes cues that signal cause-and-effect relationships. Students should understand that when they try to determine causes and effects, they need to think about which events or actions happened and what consequences resulted. Sometimes the effect is pronounced and can be identified first, and then students can backtrack to find the cause or causes.

Cause-and-effect analysis works well when used in conjunction with determining main ideas and details.

Strategy Procedures

1. Have students use the [Cause and Effect Organizer](#) to identify cause and effect relationships in the text they are reading. The number of boxes is arbitrary; more or fewer boxes may be needed. Additionally, this cause-and-effect pattern is only one of several types. The Enchanted Learning website has examples of other configurations at <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/graphicorganizers/causeandeffect/index.shtml#manyto1>. The specific events or actions and results in each case will dictate the type of cause-and-effect relationship and how it can best be represented.

Example

We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution
Elementary text, Lesson 9

You might ask students to identify the causes of the Great Compromise. In the boxes on the left, under causes they would list the following:

- States with smaller populations believed that each state should have an equal number of representatives.
- States with larger populations believed that states with more people should have more representatives in Congress.
- After long debates the delegates could not agree.
- A special committee was established to find a solution.

More Suggestions For Using This Strategy

- *We the People*
Elementary text
Lesson 5: Causes for the American Revolution
Lesson 7: Causes for the Philadelphia Convention
- *We the People*
Middle school text
Lesson 7: Causes for the revolutionary war
Lesson 20: Causes for political parties, see [example](#)