Here are some general guidelines for introducing CAUSE AND EFFECT into discussions:

1. Tell students to always ask why.

Why were slaves more important in the South than in the North? Why do people continue to commit crimes after being released from prison? What are the causes and effects of bullying in schools?

1. After students answer the Why questions, ask them,

"How do you know? What is your evidence?" Have students find research or texts to justify their position.

1. Encourage students to consider multiple causes of events.

Make lists of possible causes of events, and then try to determine which are more likely, or important, than others.

1. Encourage students to consider multiple consequences. How did World War II change life in America? What happens when we waste electricity? What are some of the likely consequences of global warming? What consequences does the behavior of a character in a story have on the lives of other characters?
2. Use graphic organizers, such as cause-and-effect chains, [flow charts](https://www.teachervision.com/graphic-organizers/printable/48387.html), and feedback loops, to help students think about complex cause-and-effect relationships.

1. Help students develop the vocabulary of cause and effect.

* Teach power words such as *consequence*, *consequently*, *influence*, and *as a result*.
* Also, teach qualifiers such as *partly responsible for* and *largely because of*
* Encourage students to qualify cause-and-effect statements with words such as *possibly*, *probably*, or *almost certainly*.
* Explain that whenever there is doubt (as there often is in matters of cause and effect), qualifying words actually strengthen an argument.

7. Connect students' understanding of cause-and-effect relationships to their writing.

point out that writers use the language of cause and effect to inform, to persuade,

and to provide their readers with an understanding of order. Help students

describe cause-and-effect relationships in their writing. Encourage them to use

[graphic organizers](https://www.teachervision.com/graphic-organizers/printable/6293.html) to illustrate their ideas