

Cause and Effect Essay

Read the task below, then read the model answer. Finally read the comments that follow.

In most countries in the world, men die younger than women. Write an essay giving at least two reasons for this. Finally, suggest a possible solution.

Write 200-220 words.

Developed and developing countries have one thing in common ; life-expectancy is generally higher among females than among males. There are several reasons for this.

I would suggest that the main reason is biological. The female body seems to have been provided by nature with superior protection. Women seem to be able to withstand greater physical trauma or pain than men. They also appear to have stronger immune systems and to recover from illness more quickly than men do.

A major secondary cause is that men tend to be more careless about their health than women. They pay less attention to diet, for example, and are more likely to drink or smoke heavily. Unlike women, men have still not got into the habit of visiting their doctors for medical check-ups. This means that dangerous illnesses in men are often not detected at an early enough stage. As well as neglecting their health, men also tend to take more risks. For example, they are more reckless drivers than women and are more ready to participate in life-endangering sports such as extreme-skiing or bungee-jumping. Activities like these often result in fatal accidents.

As for a solution to the problem of male life-expectancy, men could help themselves by taking greater care of their health and physical safety. However, since women do seem biologically programmed to live longer, it is unrealistic to expect male and female life-expectancies to ever be equal.

237 words

Comments

This type of essay gives you a problem and asks you to suggest the causes (or reasons) for it. You might, as in this example, be asked to offer a solution. You cannot deny that the problem exists, ie you cannot say that men do not die younger than women! The paragraph structure is as follows ;

Paragraph 1 – state the problem (in your own words if possible)

Paragraph 2 – the main cause

Paragraph 3 – secondary cause(s) (paragraphs 2 and 3 could be the other way round if you prefer)

Paragraph 4 – possible solution

Signpost phrases are underlined in the essay.

As a final practice, you will write a cause and effect essay. The general topic will be a social or health problem but the exact topic will only be given when you start to write.