

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

RULE #1: If anything I say on this page conflicts with what your teachers have told you, I am wrong, and they are right.

Conflict with the Indigenous Nations – Causes

19. Explaining IV – complex explanation

In Writing Development exercise #15 on why the Homesteaders moved west, we saw that each event/development might have multiple causes, and that each cause might have multiple explanations of how it caused the event/development.

Thus, on the causes of the Plains Wars, we might end up with an essay plan like this:

1. CULTURAL	→ AN EXPLANATION OF HOW →	+ PROVING INFORMATION	= RESULT
2. GENOCIDAL RACISM	→ 1 st EXPLANATION OF HOW → → 2 nd EXPLANATION OF HOW →	+ PROVING INFORMATION	= RESULT
3. ECONOMIC	→ 1 st EXPLANATION OF HOW → → 2 nd EXPLANATION OF HOW → → 3 rd EXPLANATION OF HOW →	+ PROVING INFORMATION	= RESULT
4. POLITICAL	→ 1 st EXPLANATION OF HOW → → 2 nd EXPLANATION OF HOW → → 3 rd EXPLANATION OF HOW →	+ PROVING INFORMATION	= RESULT
5. RETALIATION	→ AN EXPLANATION OF HOW →	+ PROVING INFORMATION	= RESULT

In reality, however, causes are rarely separate and clear-cut like this – they overlap and inter-react so as to result in the outcome.

One example of this from the webpage, for instance, would be to say that there was a connection between the Indigenous peoples' RETALIATION to the governments' POLITICAL policies and lies. Another would be to suggest that the governments' POLITICAL policies were prompted by the desire to access the ECONOMIC wealth of the Plains.

1. Think of as many links between the five causes as you can. Write them out as basic sentences. Then (as you learned in Writing Development exercise #18) improve the paragraph using the following ideas:
 - a. Start with a topic sentence introducing the idea of the paragraph
 - b. Expand sentences by adding factual information
 - c. Vary vocabulary
 - d. Use subordinating conjunctions and an appositive
 - e. Explain how all this led to conflict, including proving information
 - f. End with a concluding sentence

This idea makes an excellent final paragraph if you are writing an essay on a topic with multiple aspects.

However, AQA students, it is PARTICULARLY useful as a last paragraph to an essay where you are discussing 'which was the more important reason'.

For instance, if you were answering the question:

Which of the following was the more important reason why white settlers came into conflict with the Plains Indians:

- economic reasons
- political reasons

You would of course analyse the importance of both the economic reasons and the political reasons separately. But a concluding paragraph which looked at links between the two and found that the economic ambitions caused the political policies would make it very easy to come to a conclusion about which was the more important.