

## CAUSE-EFFECT STATEMENT GUIDE

Cause and effect statements are statements that demonstrate a relationship between two or more things; the “things” are linked in such a way that the reader understands that one “thing” caused the other “thing” to occur. For example:

**When I told my mother that I didn’t get my homework done, she refused to let me go to the dance.**

What is linked?

. . . . not getting the homework done . . . and . . . . not going to the dance . . .

Not getting the homework done (cause) resulted in not being allowed to go to the dance (effect). Another way to look at this is that cause= reason and effect= result.

History is a grand pattern of interconnected causes and effects. That’s life!

Understanding cause and effect is more important than remembering any names, places, dates in isolation. By themselves they mean nothing. Only by looking at these as part of a cause/effect relationship do we really understand history.

Your job is to write 10 cause-effect statements based upon the economy (Teacher: *or transportation, society, World War II, or all of these topics*) of the American period of Alaska history. Below is an example and a check list of what must be included in each statement. Start each statement by putting it in this form:

Because of \_\_\_\_\_, then \_\_\_\_\_.

You can rearrange the words later to make the sentence more grammatically smooth.

### **EXAMPLE:**

During the Fairbanks area gold rush of the early 1900’s, gold miners relied upon traders to provide valuable supplies such as coffee, sugar, flour, and even miners’ hand tools.

### **CHECKLIST for your cause-effect statements.**

- \*\*\* Are two topics linked?
- \*\* Are the topics appropriately linked?
- \*\* Is TIME and PLACE stated?
- \*\* Is the statement historically ACCURATE?
- \*\* Is there appropriate GRAMMAR and STRUCTURE?
- \*\* Is the statement CLEAR in its meaning?