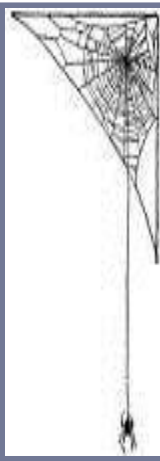


CAUSES
and
EFFECTS



PART 1:
THE
RHETORICAL
STRATEGY

BACKGROUND



BACKGROUND:

- To reinforce the complexity & non-linearity
 - **of Causality & Consequence**
- To rectify certain misconceptions
 - **concerning Causality & Consequence**



BACKGROUND

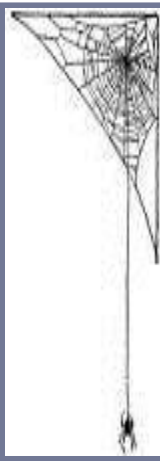
3

NO OVERSIMPLIFICATION:

- a cause often has *more than 1* effect
- an effect often has *more than 1* cause
- causes can *be effects* from other causes
- effects can *become causes* of other effects

- THUS, causes & effects = *plural*
- THUS, their relationship = *complex, non-linear*

- THUS, the pictures of the *spider webs*



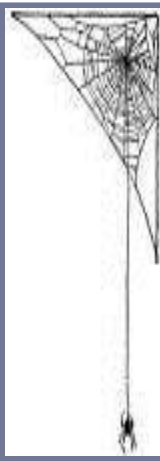
BACKGROUND



NO OVERSIMPLIFICATION:

- o Life is too complex, too complicated
- o For events to have but 1 cause, 1 effect
 - o such singularity, simplicity is quite rare
- o THUS, it would be an oversimplification to claim that a situation had but a *single* cause leading up to it and *single* effect flowing away from it

BACKGROUND



NO VACUUM:

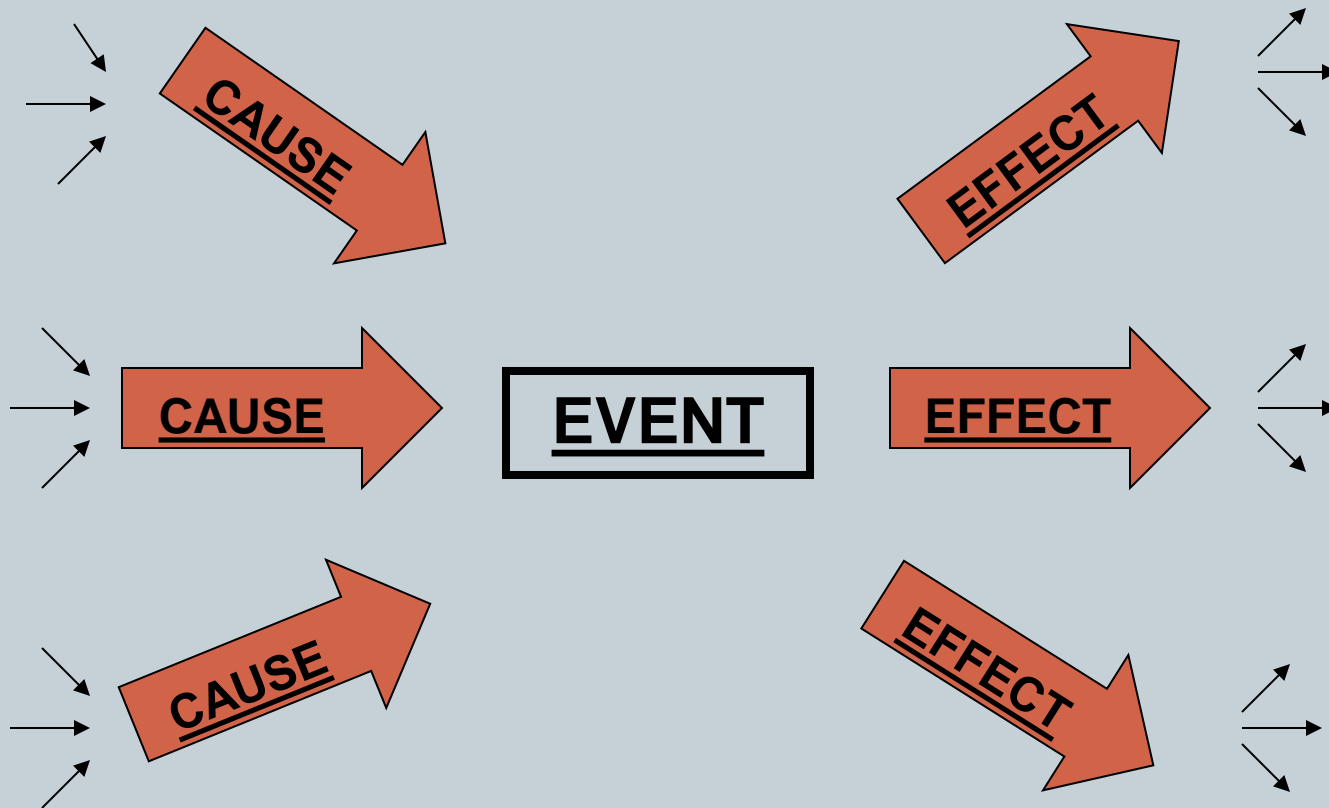
- Further, no event happens in a vacuum
 - unrelated or unconnected to any other situation
 - past and present
- **HENCE**, causes and effects have a certain **interconnectedness** (*like a web!*)
- Ask yourself:
 - *Where did those causes come from?*
 - causes as effects of other causes
 - *Where do those effects go?*
 - Effects as causes of other effects

WEB

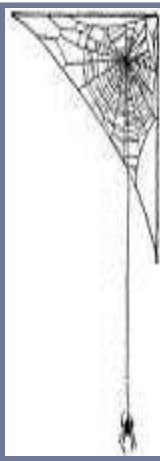
BACKGROUND



NO VACUUM:



BACKGROUND



NO COUPLES:

- Also, causes & effects do not pair up like animals marching to Noah's Ark
- Causes & Effects have **no 1:1 ratio**
- A cause does not have a corresponding effect
 - a “soul mate,” partner, companion, spouse
 - As a matter of fact, the idea of correspondence is doubtful itself
- Hence, in an essay, you wouldn't discuss in a single paragraph a cause-effect pair

BACKGROUND



NO LINEARITY:

- **Nor do Causes & Effects regularly queue up to form a neat chronological line**
 - this happened → which led to this → which led to this → ...
 - What some call “causal chains”
- **Oftentimes, unrelated or independent causes coalesce to create a series of effects**
 - Think “a perfect storm”
 - 3 separate storm systems converged to create one monster storm, which had disastrous consequences

BACKGROUND



DEFINITIONS:

<u>CAUSES</u>	<u>EFFECTS</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Why did this happen?”• <i>Precede</i> the event, condition, behavior• Precipitating factors, roots,• Motives, antecedents, bases, origins, sources, derivations• Positive and/or Negative❖ <i>More than one</i> cause to an event, condition, behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “What happened as a result of this?”• <i>Follow</i> the event• Consequences, results, outcomes• Effects <i>can</i> become the causes of other events, conditions• Positive and/or Negative❖ <i>More than one</i> effect to an event, condition, behavior

BACKGROUND



EVENT:

Your car ran out of gas on the way home from school.

CAUSES

- Poor time management
- Irresponsibility
- Lack of money
- Broken gas gauge
- Unfamiliarity with new car
- Preoccupation with your relationship
- Thinking about writing your cause-effect essay

EFFECTS

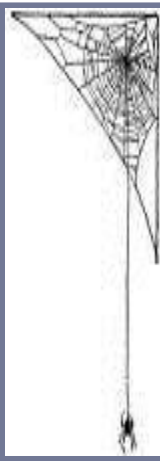
- Long walk home
- Late for work
- Pulled a muscle
- Fell in a ditch
- Ruined your favorite shoes
- Lost your (priceless) school notes and (overpriced) text books

BACKGROUND

11

PURPOSE:

- *Questions answered =*
 - What happened and why?
 - What is happening and why?
 - What will happen and why?

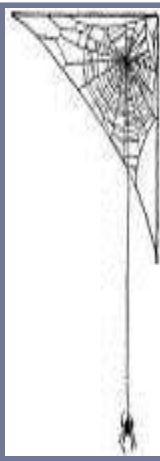


BACKGROUND

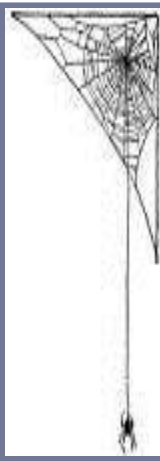
12

PURPOSE:

- *By tracing causes → we can*
 - **understand** an event, condition, behavior
 - **appreciate** an (+) event, condition, behavior
 - **replicate** an (+) event, condition, behavior
 - **assure that it happens again**
 - **prevent** an (-) event from happening again



BACKGROUND



PURPOSE:

- *By tracing effects → we can*
 - **persuade** people to care about an issue
 - **convince** them to take some action
 - to address the problem
 - **teach/learn** a moral
 - life lesson
 - scientific truth
 - anthropological, sociological, psychological principle
 - **replicate** an (+) event, **prevent** an (-) event

BACKGROUND



PURPOSE:

- ***C&E and Proposal Arguments:***
 - Before proposing a solution, look at causes.
 - Before attacking or supporting proposal, look at effects.
 - Before making a decision, look at effects.

- ***C&E and Critical Thinking:***
 - Forethought, foresight,
 - Prudence, precaution, planning
 - Consideration, conscientiousness

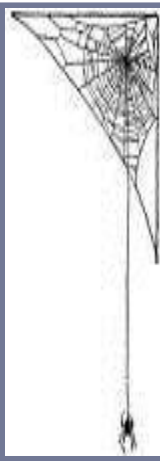
BACKGROUND



Logical Fallacies and Causality:

- *Post hoc ergo propter hoc:*
 - Precedence confused with causality
 - Chronology
 - Just because A precedes B, does not necessarily mean that A caused B.

BACKGROUND



Logical Fallacies and Causality:

- ***Hasty generalization:***
 - Too few cases considered
 - Too little consideration of other causes, of alternative explanations (*Occam's Razor*)

- ***Overgeneralization:***
 - “universal quantifier” = “all”
 - “existential quantifier” = “some”
 - OG = *All of the blame falls on X.*

BACKGROUND



Logical Fallacies and Causality:

- ***Oversimplification:***
 - Reducing a complex situation to a single cause

- ***Fallacy of Oversimplified Cause:***
 - Multiple causes
 - Number of factors
 - No *single* cause

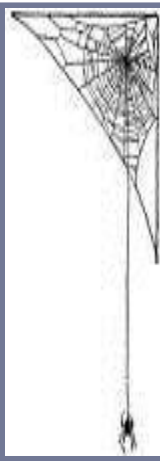


FINAL THOUGHTS

FINAL THOUGHTS



- **Causes *precede* the event.**
- **Effects *follow* the event.**
- **You'll need *both* Causes & Effects**
- **Causes & Effects = *plural***
 - a cause often has *more than 1* effect
 - an effect often has *more than 1* cause
- **Causes & Effects = *inter-related, complex***
 - causes can *be effects* from other causes
 - effects can *become causes* of other effects





20

THE END