

Essay #3 Invention Exercise

As a brainstorming activity, this exercise is designed to get you to explore your thinking on your essay topic. Consider that this exercise only begins the process of addressing key questions and formulating your thinking about this topic. I strongly suggest that you come back to these key questions and update your thinking as you work on the paper. *Warning: You can get tangled between causes and effects and then causal chains (a cause has an effect which in turn because the cause with an effect... and so on).*

1. Examine your chosen essay topic closely for the writing situation you are addressing. Who is your audience? What is your purpose? What is the occasion for this communication? Write about the needs of the audience and thus your goal in writing this piece?

2. This essay is not about your opinion or other people's opinions or thoughts on the subject—your job is to represent what Taubes' is saying on this issue in your paper. For example, for topic #3, you are not presenting what you think is the cause of obesity or what research outside of his book says is the cause of obesity—your job is to pull together what Taubes' says (and the information and sources he references) is the primary cause of obesity. Write your thoughts and understanding about this role you will take in working on this project.

3. Look more closely at your chosen topic as it is broken down in the "Breakdown of Essay #3 Topics" on pages 4-5. Each topic at its heart is a causal analysis with an "Essay Question" and the answer or Thesis for that question embedded inside it. Review your chosen topic and its core effect-cause relationship and argumentative task. Then freewrite here for 100-150 words your thoughts about this topic and task.

3. Essentially, your paper is about a primary effect and you need to support and argue for what its single cause is or multiple causes are. For example, Topic #3 is essentially obesity (effect) is caused in large part by sugar intake (cause). From your reading and thinking about Taubes' book, list as many reasons as you can think of to support this core cause/effect relationship (for example, list as many reasons (or major supports) Taube presents for why sugar causes obesity. Just list some of these main reasons/supports in rough, quick form. Try to get four to six reasons.

For the next set of invention questions, you will pick the top three or four reasons you have listed above to elaborate upon.

5. What is cause/reason #1? Brainstorm what sort of things Taubes says about this cause/reason?

6. What is cause/reason #2? Brainstorm what sort of things Taubes says about this cause/reason?

7. What is cause/reason #3? Brainstorm what sort of things Taubes says about this cause/reason?

8. What is cause/reason #4? Brainstorm what sort of things Taubes says about this cause/reason? (if you have a fourth one)