Skill: Cause and Effect

Cause: the action or situation that produces an event.

Transition Words— because, led to, due to, brought about, produced, as a result of, so that, since, therefore, then, next, eventually

Effect: what happens as a result of the cause

Remember: 1. some causes lead to more than one effect
2. some effects have more than one cause
3. an effect can become the cause of yet another effect

Part One: In each grouping label causes “C” and effects “E” – ask yourself, which event(s) logically would have to occur first in order to make the other event(s) possible.

**Example #1: one cause and one effect**
- Early humans learned how to grow their own food
- The nomadic lifestyle gave way to settled communities

**Example #2: two causes contributing to one effect**
- Rome’s low rolling hills meant few natural barriers
- It was easy for the people of Rome to unite as an empire
- The Mediterranean Sea made trade and travel easy

**Example #3: one cause leading to three effects**
- Books became easier to make and cheaper to buy
- Information spread at a much quicker speed
- Johann Gutenberg invented the printing press
- More Europeans could read and interpret the Bible for themselves

Part Two: Read the passage below and use two colored highlighters; one for causes and one for effects. Circle the transition word that you found in each cause and effect pairing.

Hint: There are four causes; four effects; four transition words and one example of an event being both a cause and effect (highlighted in both colors)

The desire for fame and wealth led to European exploration of the Americas. Because the natives had never been exposed to European diseases, millions died during the early years of contact with Europeans and as a result were not strong enough to withstand the European attempts to dominate them. This domination helped lead to the eventual enslavement of millions of Native Americans. This slave system was known as the encomienda system.