

Cause & Effect



1. How would you respond to the following statements?
 - a. It has never been scientifically proven that anyone has ever died because of smoking cigarettes.

 - b. The greenhouse theory – that certain gases trap heat in the atmosphere and thus influence the average temperature and climate of Earth – is not a reliable idea because it is only a theory.

2. List some examples of “facts” that were once accepted but now are generally believed to be false. Similarly, think of ideas that once were considered ridiculous but are not widely accepted. What facts seem to have always been accepted?

3. Suppose that urban planners decided not to build more freeways. Would this eventually make the situation better or worse for most residents? Explain.

4. Think of four examples of actions that help at first, but have undesirable consequences later on. Think of four actions that hurt at first, but end up as net beneficial changes.

5. Describe a real situation that is a “tragedy of the commons”. What actions might solve the problem and why? Compare your example with other members of the class.