

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

RULE #1: If anything I say on this page conflicts with what your teachers have told you, I am wrong, and they are right.

What measures did Roosevelt introduce to deal with the Depression?

11. Explaining I – simple explanations

EVERY answer you write should include an element of explanation – explaining HOW what you are writing is actually answering the question.

When you addressed the subordinating conjunctions ('because', 'so', 'so that', 'which caused', 'which led', 'as a result') you found it easy to identify the effect of a cause, or a cause for an effect. But what makes explanation in an exam answer so difficult is that you have to link a *specific* cause to a *specified* effect, and that is cognitively harder, and many students struggle to do so effectively.

NOTE: the sections that follow say nothing about providing facts or examples in your answer; we will deal with that in the next Writing Development exercise #12.

Let's take the question:

"Explain one way Roosevelt addressed the Depression."

So let's say you choose the alphabet agency FERA: the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. Now you need to **explain how** that agency addressed the Depression, thus:

FERA	EXPLANATION OF → HOW → FERA ADDRESSED THE DEPRESSION	= GOOD EFFECTS
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I am going to call this sequence of explaining **how**, from the cause to the effect, an 'explanation pathway'.

1. Consider this answer:

"One way Roosevelt addressed the Depression was by setting up FERA, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. This tried to improve things by providing \$3.1 billion in matched funding to help states provide work for the unemployed and homeless. As a result, work and wages were provided for 20 million people who developed facilities on public lands across the country."

Identify the sentence which gives the explanation of **how** FERA addressed the Depression, and underline the subordinating conjunction which signals its effect.

2. Use the following sentence stems to write good 'as a result' paragraphs explaining **how** each of the following 'New Deal' measures addressed the Depression:

- <The Bank Holiday>. As a result _____.
- < The National Industrial Recovery Act>. As a result _____.
- <The Tennessee Valley Authority >. As a result _____.
- <The Wagner Act>. As a result _____.
- <The Social Security Act>. As a result _____.
- <The Fair Labour Standards Act>. As a result _____.