

Sample Intro: Your task here is to explain what REALLY happened with about 10 cause-and-effect statements.

Nothing But the Truth is a documentary novel about a teenager who does not tell the “whole truth and nothing but the truth,” and it ends up causing a media circus that results in many injustices. Philip Malloy wanted to be on the track team, but he was failing his English class, so he decided to try to get switched to another teacher. He...., and the result was..... This caused ..., which resulted in.... Because of that, his dad..., so Philip.... Dr. Palleni, the vice principal, suspended Philip because....

Sample Body Paragraph (Argument)

Mr. Malloy is one of the characters to blame for complicating matters because he wanted to appear to be an involved father even though he never actually looked into the situation. This started when Mrs. Malloy saw Philip's grade in English and said to her husband, "He doesn't want to talk. Maybe you should be spending more time with him." Obviously, Mr. Malloy feels some pressure from his wife to appear to be involved and supportive in Philip's experiences, but neither of them knew at this point that Philip couldn't even try out for the track team, and they never contacted anyone at the school to find out the whole story or advocate for their son. Mr. Malloy plows ahead and continues to act supportive, even when the kind of support he is offering only makes matters worse. After hearing about how Philip was kicked out of class for "singing" the Star-spangled Banner, he says, "Phil, let me tell you something. One thing I've learned is this: You really have to stick up for your rights. We'll stand with you." This gives Philip the incentive to go in the next day and again cause a problem for Miss Narwin, which ultimately gets him suspended from school. So, while it is Philip's behavior that results in his suspension, it is his father's "support" that makes him bold enough to do it a second time. However, he never tells his father that the real reason he wants to get out of Miss Narwin's class is because he can't try out for the track team, and his father never asks. Mr. Malloy just goes off half-cocked and gets Ted Griffen involved, which turns the whole affair into a media circus. Some people would argue that Mr. Malloy is just trying to be supportive, which is what a good father should be, but the truly effective parent would have gone into the school on his son's behalf, spoken directly to the teacher, and discovered there was more to the story than Philip was letting on. For this reason, Mr. Malloy shares the blame for the many injustices in the story.

claim

Evidence #1

Quote #1 from text

WARRANT #1

Evidence #2

Quote #2 from text

WARRANT #2

Address counterclaim!

↑ conclusion sentence