Statements implying Causality

A key element of open ended essays is implying a causal (cause/effect) relationship between the prompt topic and the MOWAAW. The following examples show how you can use some writing techniques to emphasize that your brain is understanding the causality between prompt topic and MOWAAW.

Transitional Phrases:

Due to the <Prompt Topic>, MOWAAW
As a result of <Prompt Topic>, MOWAAW
Because of <Prompt Topic>, MOWAAW
Having a <Prompt Topic> MOWAAW

Without Transitional Phrases:

The <Prompt Topic> **facilitates** the MOWAAW
The <Prompt Topic> **serves** as a **catalyst** to MOWAAW
The <Prompt Topic> **creates** MOWAAW
The <Prompt Topic> **underscores** MOWAAW
The <Prompt Topic> **emphasizes** MOWAAW
The <Prompt Topic> **reveals** MOWAAW

Hypothetical Prompt:

Sometimes in literature a character's pride has a negative impact on themselves or others. Select a work in which pride plays this detrimental role and analyze the effect it has on creating the meaning of the work as a whole.

Examples (from an introduction):

Because of the hubris revealed by Oedipus' attempts to control the world around him, the audience understands tragic truth that mankind's own actions can bring about his own destruction.

Oedipus' failed and prideful attempts to control the world around him, **serve** as a **catalyst** to tragic realization that ironically he has only caused the

downfall he sought to avoid.

Example (analysis cycle from a body paragraph)

Oedipus reveals his pride by addressing his subjects as “his children”, claiming that he suffers more than all of them, and emphasizing his greatness since he overcame the Sphinx. He seems both unwilling to look beyond his own suffering and his own greatness which shows a need to control others and his own reputation. **As a result of this pride**, Sophocles emphasizes the role Oedipus plays in the horrific realization that he is not just a victim of his own fate, but the agent of his own tragic downfall which costs him his social standing and his own peace of mind.

Where should these appear?

- ➢ Late in introduction
- ➢ After each analytical example
- ➢ Late in a Body paragraph
- ➢ As often as possible

Raising in the Sun Practice Activity:

Imagine you are writing on the (fairly generic) prompt below:

Frequently in literature, an individual character’s motivation, sense of self, interactions with others, etc. can have a major impact in developing key ideas of the text. Select a single character and analyze the impact he/she has on creating the meaning of the work as a whole.

1. Write an introduction for *Raisin in the Sun* that addresses this prompt. Make sure that it features a causality statement of some kind that you underline or put in bold.

2. Write an analytical topic sentence for a body paragraph.

3. Write an analysis cycle (example above) that features, plot references, insights, and a causality statement to MOWAAW. Again, please put the causality statement in bold or underline.