

DIRECTIONS: Read *The Reasons for Poor Test Grades* and answer the questions that follow.

A REASON FOR Everything

by B. Browne

Billy decided to study for Monday's math test on Sunday night. He sat comfortably in his bed and read his notes several times. The next day, he felt confident walking into his math class for the test. However, about midway through the test, he felt a sinking feeling. He could not answer many of the questions, and he knew he had failed the test. When he met with the teacher to talk about it, she asked him "how" he had studied. Then she told him that his poor grade was the effect of his poor study habits, and she explained exactly what caused the "F."

The first habit that caused Billy's "F" was the fact that he waited until Sunday night to study. The teacher announced the test one week prior to the test. Billy should have started studying on the first day he knew about the upcoming test. By studying a little every night, Billy would have spent more time on the material, instead of cramming the studying into one session. This would have increased his chance of remembering the material.

The second habit that caused the poor grade was studying in bed. Billy's teacher told him that studying in bed could make a person too sleepy to concentrate. Students should study at a desk or table, with their back straight to stay alert. Billy admitted that he did almost fall asleep while studying that night.

The third habit that caused Billy to fail was his method of studying. Simply reading the notes is not enough. Billy should have written notes or flashcards to memorize the material. Then he should have had a friend or adult make up practice questions for him to answer. There are even practice test sources online. This would have led to better understanding of the material.

Billy's teacher helped him understand that his poor test grade was caused by poor study habits. Waiting until the last minute to study, studying in bed, and reading over the notes were the reasons for Billy's poor grade. However, with a few simple study changes, Billy's test grades can definitely improve.



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1. What is the **topic** of the essay?

2. What is the **purpose** of the essay?

3. What kind of **lead** did the writer use?

4. Which sentence is the **thesis statement**?

5. How many **body paragraphs** are in this essay? _____

6. Why has the writer included this number of body paragraphs?

7. Which **pattern of organization** has the writer used?

8. Support the organizational pattern from #7.

9. What **type of information** is used to **develop** each body paragraph?

10. What purpose does the **conclusion** serve?

Name _____

Cause & Effect Prompts

What are the causes of
childhood obesity?

Cause & Effect

What effect can a damaging
storm have on a community?

Cause & Effect

What effect can learning to read
have on a young person?

Cause & Effect