



## CAUSE AND EFFECT CHAIN EXPLANATION

This strategy helps students recognize cause and effect relationships. The cause and effect chain may be used to look at a series of events that are a result of one another or are caused by one another, like a chain reaction. The cause and effect chain graphic organizer reinforces the idea that each **CAUSE** brings about a related **EFFECT**, that in turn each **EFFECT** becomes a **CAUSE** for the next effect, and that all **CAUSES** lead to the final **EFFECT**. The example of a trail of dominoes being knocked over often helps students visualize this relationship. If one domino does not fall, the final effect will change.

1. Distribute the Cause and Effect Chain graphic organizer.
2. Students begin the chain by writing the initial **cause** in the first box labeled “C.” Students continue filling in effects and causes until the chain is complete.
3. Students may be directed to enter signal words on the lines provided between the boxes.

