

decreasing, and women are slowly entering traditionally male professions. With further examples of correlation, the affirmative team could strengthen its case.

EXAMPLE THREE: THE LEGAL SYSTEM

Yet another example the affirmative might present as a cause-and-effect argument is in the realm of the legal system.

DESCRIBING FEATURES OF THE CAUSE

Here, once again, the family and issues related to it are usually considered the private sphere, with the public sphere encompassing society in general. Because the family, as a private entity, is not open to intervention by the state (the public sphere), the public and private sectors remain separate.

DEMONSTRATING THE EFFECT

One effect of the separation of public and private sectors in the legal sphere is that governments do not confront issues such as domestic violence. For example, Human Rights Watch reports that in Uzbekistan the government orders local authorities to force reconciliation between couples rather than allow women to leave abusive relationships. The government fails to investigate or prosecute domestic violence because it is considered a family issue.¹⁰ This further entrenches the separation and endangers the lives of both women and children.

DEMONSTRATING A CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP

You could use the data from Uzbekistan to support a causal relationship using the method of agreement. In that example, the claimed cause and the claimed effect are found simultaneously. You can also support a causal relationship by employing the method of difference, using examples of societies that do not have a strict separation of public and private spheres in legal matters and do not have such a detriment. In the United Kingdom, for example, the Home Secretary's Office has created domestic violence units. The very presence of these units testifies that Great Britain's legal system does not have a strict separation of public and private sectors. As a result, about half the known domestic violence cases end in convictions, a significantly higher percentage than in most countries.¹¹ Thus, the method of difference supports a causal relationship because of the absence of separation between public and private spheres, as well as an absence of a detriment to women's rights.

These are just a few of the ways that an affirmative team can establish a case based on cause-and-effect argument. In any example, the affirmative must clearly describe the links between purported causes and effects. Without the affirmative supplying clear, specific links, the negative team has an easier time questioning the case.