

Cause & Effect Reasoning:

Analyzing Why Events Happened

- **Key Words:**

- *Caused, Led to, Forced, Because, Resulted in, Reason for,*

- Elements:

- _____

- _____

- _____ —explanation of connection between
cause & effect

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- Ex. There was a car accident on Route 128S this morning causing slow traffic making Mx Sunderland late for school.
 - **Key Word(s):**
 - **Cause(s):**
 - **Effect(s):**
 - **Connectors:**

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- Ex. Seniors are disrespectful, lazy and irresponsible because they feel they are no longer connected to the high school community.
 - **Key Word(s):**
 - **Cause(s):**
 - **Effect(s):**

 - **Connectors:**

CE Reasoning: Diagramming

“Boxes & Arrows”

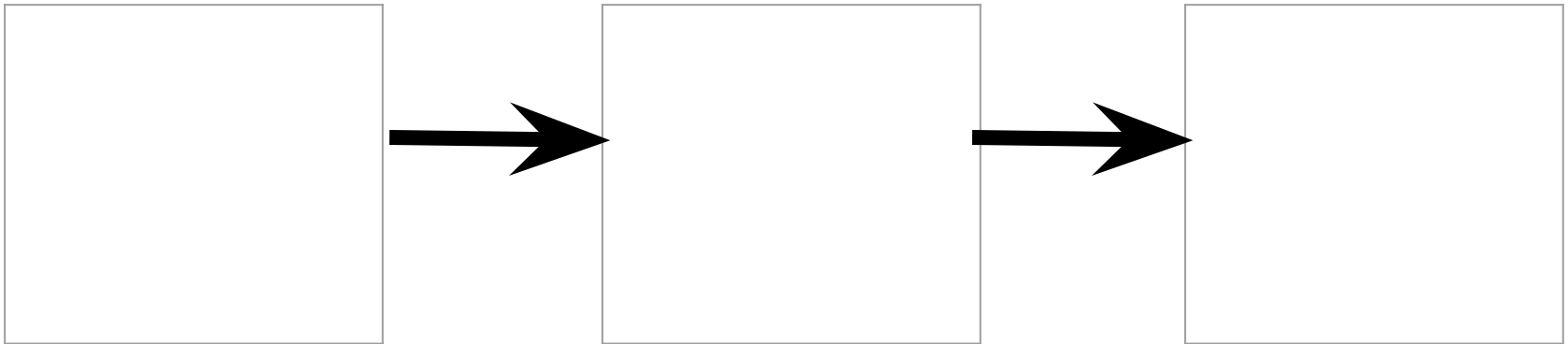


TIP: Only 1 Idea per Box, Only 1 Box per Idea

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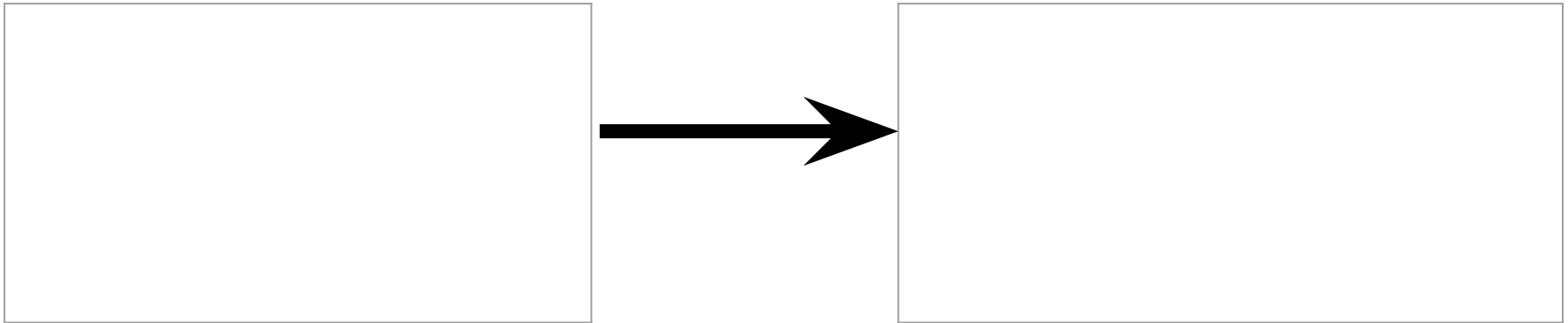
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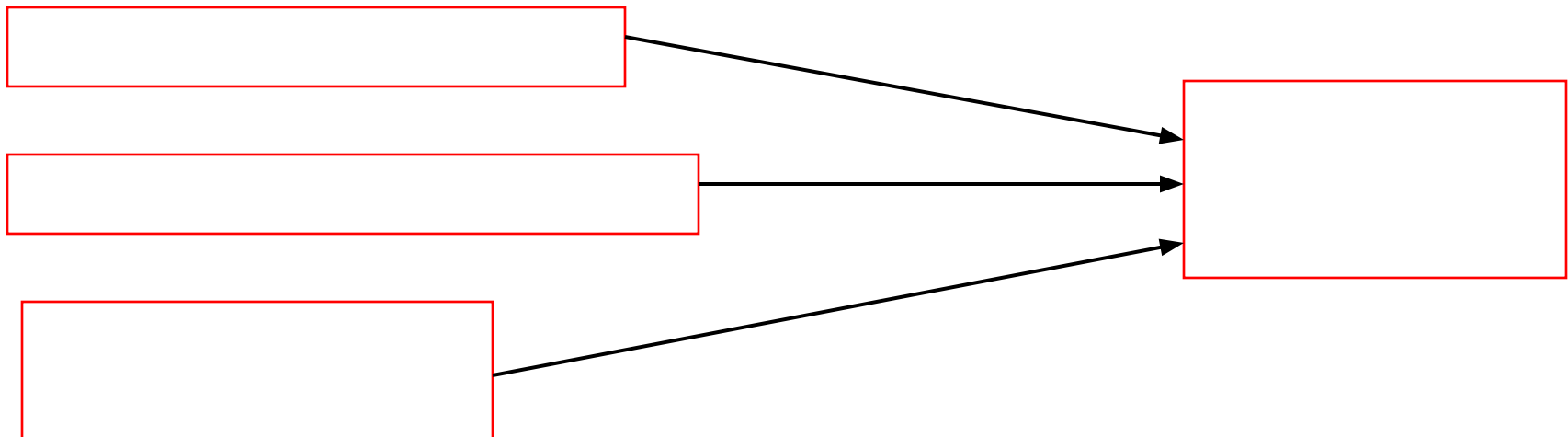


CE Reasoning: 3 Basic Types

(1) CAUSES—Point of argument is to explain the causes of some event.

--Start Diagram with EFFECT.

Ex. There were three reasons for the failure of the Red Sox to advance in the 2008 playoffs. First, their starting pitching was inconsistent. Second, their relief pitching was consistently bad. And third, their big offensive players didn't produce.

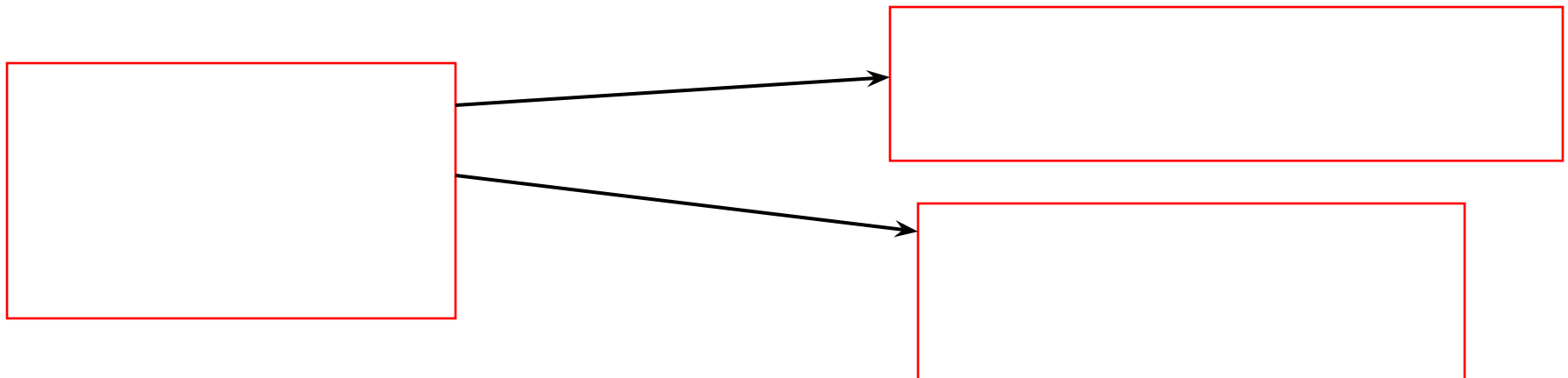


CE Reasoning: 3 Basic Types

(2) EFFECTS—Point of argument is to explain the effects of some event.

--Start diagram with CAUSE.

Ex. There were two important effects of the failure of the Red Sox to advance in the 2008 playoffs. First, Boston fans quickly shifted their attention to the Pats. And, second, Yankees fans quietly sighed in relief.



CE Reasoning: 3 Basic Types

(3) CONNECTION—Point of argument is to explain the connection between a cause & an effect.

--Start Diagram with CAUSE and EFFECT

Ex. Unemployment is a major contributor to economic contraction.

Unemployment decreases household income. This, in turn, reduces consumption. Decreased consumption creates downward pressure on prices which cuts business profits. With profits reduced, businesses cut production or fail. This, inevitably, means less production thus a contraction. Also, business failure creates a vicious cycle as workers are laid off.

