Cause-and-Effect Relationships in Your Topic

1. **Look for cause-and-effect relationships in your topic by asking:**

   HOW did this happen?
   - What were the circumstances under which something happened?
   - What other factors contributed to it?

   WHAT happened as a result of an event/issue?
   - What was the outcome?
   - What ripple effects were caused?

   You may **know** of specific cause-and-effect relationships or **wonder** about possible relationships. So you can state your initial ideas as **statements** *or* **questions**.

2. **Let's look at some examples:**

Cause-Effect Relationships in Topics

Shark Attacks
- Shark attacks are increasing. How come?
- Have the injuries from attacks gotten worse over the years?
- Have shark attacks changed the habits of surfers?
- Where do the most attacks happen?
- What kinds of sharks attack people most often?
- Shark attacks in America have decreased while they have increased in other countries. How come?
- Did the movie *Jaws* increase awareness of shark attacks? Did it change people's attitudes about sharks?

Harry Potter
- Everyone I know has read *Harry Potter*. How has the *Harry Potter* series affected the reading habits of American children?
- Has *Harry Potter*'s popularity affected the kinds of books being published for kids? Are more fantasy books being published?
- How has J.K. Rowling's life changed since her books have been published and been wildly successful?

3. **Your list of cause-effect statements and questions**
On a piece of butcher paper with your group, record your cause-effect statements and questions, then put all your ideas into a table that looks like this:

Cause(s) → Event/Issue → Effect(s)

Causes	Event/Issue	Effects