

HCC1b: NATION AND EMPIRE Pre-writing Grid #5 Causal Analysis: George Orwell's *Burmese Days* V. Folkenflik

You are asked to explore causal arguments focusing on one possible factor in understanding why Flory self-destructs at the end of Orwell's *Burmese Days*, a fiction about the tensions of colonial rule. Use this grid to help you see how the plot of Orwell's novel works as a kind of fictional logic, whether or not you think anyone in real life is ever justified in taking such action. You should 1] identify causes of Flory's behavior, 2] do textual analysis on the evidence you find, and 3] anticipate likely objections. Before you begin, reread your lecture notes and read "Active Reading" (115-120), and "Causal Arguments" (121-124) in the *Writer's Handbook*. You will be using some skills that you already know: close reading, identifying logical fallacies, and counterargument.

KEY WORD/PHRASE	PARAPHRASE AND E-L-P	IDENTIFY CAUSAL COMPONENT	EVALUATE THIS AS A CAUSE	SO WHAT DOES THIS SHOW READERS?
Quote Orwell's exact words: where is he suggesting a factor that will cause tensions for Flory here?	In your own words: who is saying what, and to whom? (Remember that the narrator may be a speaker, too.)	Political or colonial force? Class? Race? Social ritual? Sexual? Economic? Ecological? Technology? Physical? Cultural?	In the logic of the plot, is this a "necessary" cause? A coincidence? A "sufficient" cause (if there is one)? One of many multiple causes? Overdetermined?	About Flory's motives? About the ways <u>readers</u> should respond to Orwell's protagonist, or to the tensions of colonial Burma, as presented in lecture?