

THE LANGUAGE OF HEDGING

Below is some of the language that can be used to hedge a claim.

| | | | |
|----------------------|------|------------------------------|-------|
| Will be | 100% | Won't be/couldn't be | -100% |
| May/ might be | 70% | May not/ might not be | -70% |
| Could be | 50% | | |
| May/ might have been | 70% | Couldn't have been | -100% |
| Could have been | 50% | May not/ might not have been | -70% |
| Probably | 80% | | |
| Possibly | 50% | | |

Examples of cause and effect language and hedging of claims

Although increasing the starting salaries for teachers ^{100 %} will certainly increase the attractiveness of teaching as a career choice for new graduates, simply increasing salary ^{70 %} may not be sufficient to attract the number of new teachers required to significantly impact student-to-teacher ratios, particularly ^{narrowing the scope} in rural areas.

Extensive training programs for new and existing teachers were implemented in 1995 (Education Report, 1997); however, these programs did not ^{Cause & effect} lead to improvements in the quality of education being received by students—as measured through changes in student ...

performance on international examinations (Education Report, 2005). This failure of the teacher-training programs to result in improved educational quality may have been due to the lack of quality-assurance monitoring of the training programs. As there was no system of monitoring put in place alongside the teacher - training programs, it is impossible to ascertain how well these training programs were being conducted or even if they were being conducted at all; as was the case in Ireland, where it was found that in some cases teacher-training materials were being given to teachers as take-home self-study projects (instead of workshop activities) and completed projects were never returned or checked (McChancer, 2012).

Cause and Effect: Activity 4



Hedge and narrow the scope of the following claims:

Investing in school facilities will improve enrollment in schools

Increasing and improving teacher training programs will reduce dropout rates in schools.

Reducing school fees will improve enrollment in schools.
