The conjunctions “because,” “since,” and “as” tend to be used interchangeably in regular speech, but they have slightly different meanings. Whether you are writing to demonstrate a logical flow, to examine the causes of an event, or to analyze a legal case, knowing the differences between these terms can provide greater clarity to your writing.

### HOW TO USE “Because,” “Since,” AND “As”

1. **“Because”** connects a result and its cause or reason.
   a. Expresses a greater degree of certainty than “since” or “as” in this connection.
   b. Use “because” if the goal of the sentence is to focus on the cause or reason rather than the result.

   **Examples:**
   
   i. Caleb drank a warm cup of green tea because he was extremely fatigued after writing a paper for the entire day.
   
   ii. Because it was a beautiful autumn afternoon, the professor went for a walk.

2. **“Since,”** when used as a conjunction, can connect a result and its cause or reason and can also show that something is related to time passing.
   a. **Discussing causation:** Use “since” if the goal of the sentence is to focus on the result rather than its cause or reason.
   b. **Time-related effect:** Use 'since' to indicate that time has passed.

   **Examples:**
   
   i. Causation: The student received an excellent grade on her presentation since she was well-prepared.
   
   ii. Time: The cat has been hiding around the house since the family brought home the new dog.
“As,” when used as a conjunction, can either connect a result and its cause or reason or can show that something is occurring at that moment in time.

- **Discussing causation:** Use “as” if the goal of the sentence is to focus on the result rather than its cause or reason.
- **Time-related effect:** Use “as” if two related events are occurring at the same time.

**Examples:**

- **Causation:** The students were not able to gain any usable data from their lab as they did not properly follow the protocol.
- **Time:** Kathryn arrived at the café just as they closed.

**NOTE:** “Since” and “as” can be used interchangeably when examining causation but differ in their usages when explaining time-related events.