3 Reasoning: the order that makes an argument – Part 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English	**Write it 3 times** (English)		
line of reasoning			
method of development			
topic sentence			

Recall

- You have followed a set of directions where one step depended on the last.
- You know a list of reasons is not the same as an argument.
- You have lost track of what a long paragraph was proving.

New ideas

Read these first. Each idea has a short worked example. Then do the Practice below.

■ 1 A line of reasoning

A **line of reasoning** is the sequence of claims that leads from the thesis to the conclusion. Each claim should follow from the one before, so the order carries meaning.

Worked example. If two paragraphs can be swapped with nothing lost, they were a list rather than a sequence.

■ 2 Methods of development

A **method of development** is the pattern a writer uses to organise material - narration, comparison, cause and effect, definition, classification. The method should follow from what the argument needs.

Worked example. An argument about why something happened is naturally organised by cause and effect, not by comparison.

■ 3 Topic sentences

A **topic sentence** states the paragraph's claim and shows how it follows from the previous one. The second job is what turns paragraphs into reasoning.

Worked example. "Because the drainage was already failing, the second decision mattered more than the first" both claims and connects.

Watch out: A method of development is a tool, not a template. Choosing comparison because it is familiar, when the argument is about causes, forces the material into the wrong shape.

Practice

2.1 Define a line of reasoning. [2]

2.2 State the test for whether paragraphs form a sequence. [2]

2.3 Name three methods of development. [3]

2.4 State the two jobs of a topic sentence. [2]

2.5 Explain why the method should follow from the argument. [2]