

3 Evidence chosen for a reason – Part 2

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

*Write each word three times.***English****Write it 3 times** (English)

Sufficiency

Recall

- You have used a quotation because it was the one you could find.
- You know one strong example can beat five weak ones.
- You have seen a statistic used to prove something it did not measure.

New ideas

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

■ 1 Purposeful selection

Evidence should be chosen for the job the paragraph needs done - to illustrate, to qualify, to establish scale. Choosing the most available evidence rather than the most apt is the commonest weakness in a timed essay.

Worked example. To show that a problem is widespread, a national figure does more than a vivid single case.

■ 2 Sufficiency

Sufficiency depends on quantity and quality together. Many weak examples do not add up to strong support, and one apt example may be enough for a modest claim.

Worked example. One well-explained case supports a claim about what is possible; it does not support a claim about what is typical.

■ 3 Fit between claim and evidence

The commonest failure is evidence that is true, interesting, and about something slightly different from the claim. Check that the evidence measures what the claim asserts.

Worked example. A rise in reported incidents may show better reporting rather than more incidents.

Watch out: Never let a good quotation choose the claim. Decide what the paragraph must establish, then find evidence that establishes it.

Practice

2.1 State what evidence should be chosen for. [2]

2.2 Define sufficiency. [2]

2.3 Explain why one apt example can be enough. [2]

2.4 A rise in reported incidents is used to prove a rise in incidents. State the problem. [2]

2.5 State the rule about letting a quotation choose the claim. [2]
