

1.3 Developing a paragraph with claim and evidence

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 14 marks

Objective

Build the skills to write a paragraph in which a **claim**, **evidence** and **commentary** 阐释 work together.

You must be able to:

- open a paragraph with a claim that could be disputed
- choose evidence that a doubting reader would accept
- write commentary that explains **how** the evidence supports the claim
- avoid restating the evidence in place of commentary

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ The three parts

Claim: the disputable statement this paragraph will support. **Evidence:** the material offered in support. **Commentary:** the sentence or two explaining why that evidence supports that claim.

■ Commentary is not restatement

Weak: "Visits fell 30%, which shows visits have dropped." Strong: "A 30% fall over five years, in a period when the population grew, cannot be explained by fewer residents—it points to the service itself."

■ Choosing evidence for a reader

Ask who doubts the claim and what they would accept. A sceptical council needs figures; a public meeting needs a case they recognise. The same claim may need different evidence for different audiences.

2 Practice

2.1 Name the three parts of a developed paragraph.

[3]

2.2 Explain what commentary must do that restatement does not. [2]

2.3 Claim: "Our bus timetable is designed for commuters, not for residents."

(a) State one piece of evidence that would support it. [1]

(b) Write one sentence of commentary linking your evidence to the claim. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Which sentence is commentary rather than restatement? [1]

- **A** As the data show, the figure fell by a third.
 - **B** The figure fell by a third, a drop of one-third.
 - **C** A third fewer users, in a year when fares did not rise, suggests the timetable rather than the price is the barrier.
 - **D** The figure was 30% lower.
-

3.2 Evidence should be selected mainly according to [1]

- **A** how recent it is
 - **B** what the intended audience would accept
 - **C** how long it is
 - **D** how unusual it is
-

3.3 Write a paragraph of three to four sentences supporting this claim: "School timetables are built around adult convenience rather than adolescent sleep." [4]

4 Go further

- work through the **1.3 Developing a paragraph with claim and evidence** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Claims, Evidence, and the Rhetorical Situation** section of the AP English Language handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 claim; evidence; commentary.

2.2 commentary explains **how** the evidence supports the claim; restatement only repeats the evidence in other words.

2.3 (a) e.g. services run only at peak hours, with no midday buses. (b) commentary must connect: e.g. a timetable with no midday service cannot be used by anyone whose journey is not to and from work, which is precisely the residents' complaint.

3.1 C. it explains what the figure implies and rules out a rival explanation.

3.2 B. evidence persuades only if the intended reader accepts it.

3.3 claim stated and disputable; relevant evidence; commentary linking evidence to claim; paragraph unified around the one claim.