

2.4 Developing a paragraph with claim and evidence

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Total: 12 marks

Objective

Build the skills to develop a paragraph whose **commentary** carries the weight.

You must be able to:

- write commentary that names what the evidence rules out
- use more than one piece of evidence in a single paragraph
- keep a paragraph unified around one claim
- avoid a paragraph that is all evidence or all assertion

1 Worked examples

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

■ Commentary that rules something out

The strongest commentary does not only say what the evidence shows; it says what it makes **unlikely**. “Attendance rose in the year fees were introduced” rules out price as the barrier, and that exclusion is the argument.

■ Two pieces, one claim

Where two pieces of evidence differ in kind — a figure and a case — the paragraph gains because they fail in different ways. Say why you have both.

■ Unity

One claim per paragraph. If a second claim appears halfway through, the paragraph has become two and the reader loses the thread.

2 Practice

2.1 State what the strongest commentary does beyond restating evidence. [2]

2.2 State one advantage of using two kinds of evidence in one paragraph. [2]

2.3 A paragraph opens with a claim about cost and ends with a claim about fairness.

(a) State the problem. [1]

(b) State the fix. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Commentary that names what the evidence makes unlikely is stronger because it [1]

- **A** is longer
- **B** excludes a rival explanation
- **C** repeats the claim
- **D** adds a second claim

3.2 A paragraph consisting only of assertion fails because [1]

- **A** it is too short
- **B** the reader is given no reason to accept it
- **C** it lacks transitions
- **D** the diction is informal

3.3 Write a paragraph of four sentences supporting the claim: “Free museum entry changes who visits, not only how many.” [4]

Solutions

2.1 it says what the evidence makes unlikely, excluding a rival explanation rather than only restating.

2.2 the two kinds fail in different ways, so a reader who distrusts one may accept the other.

2.3 (a) the paragraph contains two claims, so it has lost unity. (b) split it into two paragraphs, one claim each.

3.1 B. excluding a rival explanation is what makes the evidence decisive.

3.2 B. assertion gives the reader nothing to accept it on.

3.3 disputable claim stated; relevant evidence; commentary connecting evidence to claim; the paragraph stays on one claim.