

3.5 Recognizing methods of development

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

Objective

Build the skills to recognise a **method of development** 展开方法.

You must be able to:

- name common methods: narration, description, definition, comparison, cause and effect, classification, problem and solution
- identify the method used in a passage or paragraph
- explain why a method suits a purpose and audience
- avoid naming a method without explaining its effect

1 Worked examples

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

■ The common methods

Narration tells a sequence. **Description** builds a picture. **Definition** fixes a term. **Comparison** sets two things side by side. **Cause and effect** links events. **Classification** sorts into kinds. **Problem and solution** states a difficulty and answers it.

■ Identifying

Ask what the paragraph is *doing*, not what it is about. A paragraph about pollution may be defining, comparing, or narrating —the subject does not tell you the method.

■ Method and purpose

A writer arguing that a term has been misused will **define**. One arguing that a remedy is proven elsewhere will **compare**. Naming the method is only half the answer; the other half is why it fits the purpose.

2 Practice

2.1 Name four methods of development.

[2]

2.2 State the question to ask when identifying a method. [2]

2.3 A paragraph sets a policy in one country beside the same policy in another.

(a) Name the method. [1]

(b) State the purpose it likely serves. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A paragraph that fixes the meaning of a contested term uses [1]

- **A** narration
 - **B** definition
 - **C** classification
 - **D** description
-

3.2 Naming a method without explaining its effect is [1]

- **A** full analysis
 - **B** description rather than analysis
 - **C** a concession
 - **D** commentary
-

3.3 A writer opens with a short story about one patient before presenting national data.

(a) Name both methods used. [2]

(b) Explain why the order might have been chosen. [2]

4 Go further

- work through the **3.5 Recognizing methods of development** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Line of Reasoning and Methods of Development** section of the AP English Language handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 any four of: narration, description, definition, comparison, cause and effect, classification, problem and solution.

2.2 ask what the paragraph is doing, not what it is about; the subject does not determine the method.

2.3 (a) comparison. (b) to argue that a remedy proven elsewhere would work here.

3.1 B. definition fixes a contested term.

3.2 B. analysis requires the effect on purpose or audience.

3.3 (a) narration; then presentation of data —cause and effect or exemplification. (b) the story engages the reader and makes the abstract concrete, so the data that follows is read as being about people rather than numbers.