

4.5 Recognizing methods of development

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 11 marks

Objective

Build the skills to recognise a method of development and explain its **effect on the reader**.

You must be able to:

- identify a method and state what it does to the reader's response
- explain why a writer chose one method over an available alternative
- notice a shift of method within a passage
- avoid treating the method as a label

1 Worked examples

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

■ Method and reader response

Narration makes an abstraction concrete and secures attention. **Classification** makes a subject feel manageable. **Cause and effect** makes a problem seem tractable. Each method acts on the reader as well as organising the material.

■ The road not taken

A writer who narrates could have quantified. Asking why the alternative was rejected is the sharpest form of this analysis: perhaps the figures are weak, or the audience distrusts them.

■ Shifts

A passage may narrate, then define, then compare. A shift usually marks a change in what the writer needs from the reader. Locating it explains the structure.

2 Practice

2.1 State the effect on a reader of opening with narration.

[2]

2.2 Explain what asking "why not the alternative method?" reveals. [2]

2.3 A passage shifts from comparison to cause and effect halfway through.

(a) State what the shift likely signals. [1]

(b) State how you would cite it. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A writer who narrates rather than quantifies may be doing so because [1]

- **A** narration is always better
- **B** the audience distrusts figures or the figures are weak
- **C** narration is shorter
- **D** figures are unavailable in all cases

3.2 Naming a method without stating its effect on the reader is [1]

- **A** analysis
- **B** labelling
- **C** commentary
- **D** a concession

3.3 A passage classifies a problem into three kinds before proposing a remedy.

(a) State the effect of the classification. [1]

(b) Explain how it prepares the remedy. [2]

4 Go further

- work through the **4.5 Recognizing methods of development** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Introductions, Conclusions, and Development** section of the AP English Language handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 it makes an abstraction concrete and secures attention before the argument begins.

2.2 it reveals the writer's judgment of the audience and the evidence: the rejected method would have failed with this reader or with this material.

2.3 (a) a change in what the writer needs from the reader —from accepting a parallel to accepting a mechanism. (b) quote the sentence where the shift occurs and name both methods.

3.1 B. method choice reflects audience and available evidence.

3.2 B. a label is not an account of effect.

3.3 (a) it makes the problem feel manageable. (b) once sorted into kinds, a remedy can be matched to each, so the proposal looks proportionate rather than sweeping.