

# 6.2 Developing a paragraph with claim and evidence

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ **Total: 13 marks**

## Objective

Build the skills to develop a paragraph that **anticipates** the objection to its evidence.

You must be able to:

- state the strongest objection to your own evidence
- answer it inside the paragraph without derailing it
- choose evidence that is hard to dismiss
- avoid a paragraph that ignores an obvious counter

## 1 Worked examples

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

■ **Naming the objection**

Before writing, ask what a hostile but fair reader would say about your evidence. “That was one city, and an unusual one” is the sort of answer to expect.

■ **Answering inside the paragraph**

A clause is usually enough: “...and while the city is unusually dense, the same pattern appears in three smaller ones.” The objection is met without becoming the subject.

■ **Hard-to-dismiss evidence**

Evidence produced by a source with no interest in the conclusion, or a case that runs against the writer’s own preference, is harder to dismiss. Choosing it is a rhetorical decision.

## 2 Practice

2.1 State the question to ask about your own evidence before writing. [2]

2.2 Explain what makes a piece of evidence hard to dismiss. [2]

2.3 Your only evidence is one large city’s experience.

(a) State the objection. [1]

(b) Write a clause that answers it. [2]

## 3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Answering an objection inside a paragraph is best done [1]

- A at paragraph length
- B in a clause or a sentence
- C in a footnote
- D not at all

3.2 Evidence from a source with no interest in the conclusion is [1]

- A less credible
- B harder to dismiss
- C irrelevant
- D anecdotal

**3.3** Write a paragraph of four sentences that makes a claim, gives evidence, names the strongest objection, and answers it. [4]

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## Solutions

**2.1** what would a hostile but fair reader say about it; that is the objection to answer.

**2.2** it comes from a source with no interest in the conclusion, or it runs against the writer's own preference.

**2.3** (a) that one large city is unrepresentative. (b) a clause conceding the point and limiting its force, e.g. "...and although that city is unusually dense, the same pattern appears in smaller ones".

**3.1 B.** brevity keeps the objection from becoming the subject.

**3.2 B.** disinterest strengthens the evidence.

**3.3** claim; evidence; strongest objection named; objection answered without derailing the paragraph.