

7.2 Writing introductions and conclusions

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

Objective

Build the skills to open and close an argument that must **concede** 让步 to succeed.

You must be able to:

- open by granting something to a resistant reader
- avoid an opening concession that gives away the claim
- close by stating what remains true after the concessions
- distinguish a conclusion that concedes from one that retreats

1 Worked examples

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

■ Opening with a concession

Granting a real point at the start buys attention from a reader who expects to disagree. "The scheme will cost more in its first three years" costs nothing if the argument is that it is still worth it.

■ Not giving away the claim

A concession must be about something other than the claim itself. Granting that the scheme may not work is not a concession; it is the argument abandoned.

■ Closing after concessions

The strongest close states what survives: "Even allowing for the cost and the disruption, the alternative leaves the same problem unsolved." That is a conclusion, not a summary.

2 Practice

2.1 State what an opening concession buys and what it must not cost.

[2]

2.2 Explain the difference between conceding and retreating in a conclusion. [2]

2.3 Claim: "The city should pedestrianise its centre."

(a) Write an opening concession. [2]

(b) State why it does not give away the claim. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Granting that your own proposal may not work is [1]

- **A** an effective concession
- **B** the argument abandoned
- **C** a qualification
- **D** a thesis

3.2 A strong conclusion after several concessions states [1]

- **A** what was said
- **B** what survives them
- **C** a new claim
- **D** the writer's feelings

3.3 Write a two-sentence conclusion for an argument that has conceded both cost and disruption. [4]

4 Go further

- work through the **7.2 Writing introductions and conclusions** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Qualifying Arguments, Syntax, and Conventions** section of the AP English Language handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 it buys the attention of a reader who expects to disagree; it must not cost the central claim.

2.2 conceding grants a point and states what survives; retreating withdraws the claim itself.

2.3 (a) a real concession about something other than the claim, e.g. that deliveries and access for disabled residents become harder. (b) it grants a cost, not the claim that the change is worth making.

3.1 B. the claim is the one thing that cannot be conceded.

3.2 B. the conclusion states what the concessions leave standing.

3.3 acknowledges the conceded costs; states what remains true and why it is decisive.