

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	B
C	D

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	B
C	D

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]
