

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	B
C	D

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	B
C	D

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]
