

7.2 Writing introductions and conclusions

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

KEY WORDS concede 让步 • qualification 限定

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	B
C	D

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	B
C	D

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]
