

Exercise walk-through

Developing a paragraph with claim and evidence ■ 3.6

eXercise

You must be able to

- state the standard for close reading
- explain what changes when the text is long
- name the initial components of a paragraph
- select evidence from a long text without summarising it

Method — The standard

The same as 1.7: **details that, in combination, enable a claim** which is then defended with **textual evidence**.

Method — What changes

A long text offers too much evidence, not too little. The skill becomes selection: which two or three passages, out of hundreds, actually bear on this claim.

Method — Two components

The claim and textual evidence that defends the claim.

Method — Not summary

The temptation in a long text is to retell. A paragraph that spends four sentences on what happens has spent them on something the reader already knows. Quote small, and explain.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what changes when the text is long.

Solution 2.1

Method: What changes

Worked steps

a long text offers too much evidence rather than too little **B1**, so the skill becomes selection **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State the two initial components of a paragraph.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

the claim **B1** and textual evidence that defends it **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Summary is the standing temptation.

- (a) State why retelling wastes a paragraph.
- (b) State the alternative.

Solution 2.3

Method: Not summary

Worked steps

(a) it uses the paragraph on information the reader already has **B1** rather than on defending the claim **B1**. (b) quote small and explain what the quotation shows **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

In a long text the difficulty is

- A** too little evidence
- B** selecting from too much
- C** finding the title
- D** counting pages

Solution 3.1

- A** too little evidence
- B** selecting from too much 
- C** finding the title
- D** counting pages

Worked steps

B. selection.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A paragraph that retells the plot spends its space on

A what the reader already knows

B the claim

C commentary

D evidence

Solution 3.2

Method: Not summary

A what the reader already knows



B the claim

C commentary

D evidence

Worked steps

A. what the reader already knows.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A student's paragraph contains six sentences of plot and one of analysis.

- (a) State the problem.
- (b) Explain the fix.

Solution 3.3

Method: Not summary

Worked steps

(a) the paragraph is a summary with a comment attached **B1**. (b) cut the retelling to the minimum needed to place the evidence **B1** and expand the analysis of what the evidence shows **B1**.