

Exercise walk-through

Developing commentary ■ 3.8

eXercise

You must be able to

- define a line of reasoning
- state how a line of reasoning is communicated
- distinguish commentary from evidence
- explain why commentary is where the essay's argument lives

Method — Line of reasoning

A line of reasoning is the logical sequence of claims that work together to defend the overarching thesis statement. A sequence, so the order of claims is itself an argument.

Method — How it is communicated

Through commentary that explains the logical relationship between the overarching thesis statement and the claims/evidence within the body of an essay.

Method — Commentary and evidence

Evidence is from the text; commentary is the writer's. Commentary says what the evidence shows and why that supports the claim. An essay of quotations has no argument.

Method — Where the argument lives

Two students may use identical quotations and reach different conclusions. The difference is entirely in the commentary, which is why it carries the reasoning.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Define a line of reasoning.

Solution 2.1

Method: Line of reasoning

Worked steps

the logical sequence of claims **B1** that work together to defend the overarching thesis statement **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State how it is communicated.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

through commentary **B1** that explains the logical relationship between the thesis and the claims and evidence in the body **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Commentary is not evidence.

- (a) State the difference.
- (b) Explain why commentary carries the argument.

Solution 2.3

Method: Where the argument lives

Worked steps

(a) evidence comes from the text **B1**; commentary is the writer's explanation of what it shows and why it supports the claim **B1**. (b) the interpretation is made in the commentary, not in the quotation **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

A line of reasoning is a logical

A sequence of claims

B list of quotations

C summary of the plot

D set of definitions

Solution 3.1

Method: Line of reasoning

A sequence of claims



B list of quotations

C summary of the plot

D set of definitions

Worked steps

A. a sequence of claims.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Commentary explains the logical relationship between the thesis and

A the claims and evidence

B the author's life

C the page numbers

D the genre

Solution 3.2

Method: How it is communicated

A the claims and evidence



B the author's life

C the page numbers

D the genre

Worked steps

A. the claims and evidence.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

Two essays use the same quotations and disagree.

- (a) State where the disagreement lies.
- (b) Explain what this shows about commentary.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) in the commentary **B1**. (b) evidence does not interpret itself **B1**, so the essay's argument is made entirely in the writer's explanation of it **B1**.