

Exercise walk-through

Developing commentary ■ 4.12

eXercise

You must be able to

- state what body paragraphs develop and justify
- state what makes a paragraph cohesive
- state the function of a topic sentence
- link a paragraph back to the thesis

Method — What they do

The body paragraphs of a written argument develop the reasoning and justify claims using evidence and providing commentary that links the evidence to the overall thesis.

Method — Cohesion

Effective paragraphs are cohesive and often use topic sentences to state a claim and explain the reasoning that connects the various claims and evidence that make up the body of an essay.

Method — Topic sentences

A topic sentence does two jobs: it states this paragraph's claim, and it shows how that claim follows from the last one. The second job is what makes a sequence a line of reasoning.

Method — Linking back

Every paragraph must earn its place by advancing the thesis. If a paragraph could be deleted without weakening the argument, it was not part of the line of reasoning.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what body paragraphs do.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

they develop the reasoning and justify claims using evidence **B1**, providing commentary that links the evidence to the overall thesis **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State the two jobs of a topic sentence.

Solution 2.2

Method: Topic sentences

Worked steps

state the paragraph's claim **B1**; show how that claim follows from the previous one **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Paragraphs must earn their place.

(a) State the test.

(b) State what makes a sequence a line of reasoning.

Solution 2.3

Method: Linking back

Worked steps

(a) ask whether the paragraph could be deleted without weakening the argument **B2**. (b) each claim following from the last towards the thesis **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Commentary in a body paragraph links the evidence to

A the overall thesis

B the author's life

C the next book

D the page number

Solution 3.1

Method: What they do

A the overall thesis



B the author's life

C the next book

D the page number

Worked steps

A. the overall thesis.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A topic sentence states a claim and

- A** explains the reasoning connecting claims and evidence
- B** quotes the text
- C** names the author
- D** ends the essay

Solution 3.2

Method: Topic sentences

A explains the reasoning connecting claims and evidence



B quotes the text

C names the author

D ends the essay

Worked steps

A. the reasoning connecting them.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A paragraph could be deleted without weakening the argument.

- (a) State what this shows.
- (b) Explain the fix.

Solution 3.3

Method: Linking back

Worked steps

(a) it was not part of the line of reasoning **B1**. (b) either give it a claim that advances the thesis **B1** or cut it and use the space on a paragraph that does **B1**.