

Exercise walk-through

Developing commentary ■ 9.7

eXercise

You must be able to

- define a line of reasoning
- state the three sophisticated moves
- explain what a broader context means for a novel
- connect sophistication to the line of reasoning

Method — Line of reasoning

The logical sequence of claims that work together to defend the overarching thesis statement, communicated through commentary.

Method — Three moves

Significance within a broader context; alternative interpretations; relevant analogies.

Method — Broader context for a novel

What the reading shows about how the novel works, about a problem it shares with other texts, or about why the interpretation matters to a reader — anchored to the argument, not appended to it.

Method — Connected, not decorative

A sophistication move belongs inside the line of reasoning. An alternative interpretation raised and dismissed in one sentence at the end has been mentioned, not used; the same alternative used to sharpen a claim mid-essay does real work.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Define a line of reasoning.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

the logical sequence of claims **B1** that work together to defend the overarching thesis, communicated through commentary **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 3 marks

State the three sophisticated moves.

Solution 2.2

Method: Three moves

Worked steps

significance within a broader context **B1**; alternative interpretations **B1**; relevant analogies **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Sophistication belongs inside the reasoning.

- (a) State the difference between mentioning and using an alternative.
- (b) State what “broader context” can mean for a novel.

Solution 2.3

Method: Connected, not decorative

Worked steps

(a) mentioning names the alternative **B1**; using it lets the alternative change how the claim is stated **B1**. (b) what the reading shows about how the novel works or about a problem it shares with other texts **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

An alternative interpretation dismissed in one final sentence has been

A mentioned, not used

B fully used

C proved

D cited

Solution 3.1

Method: Connected, not decorative

A mentioned, not used



B fully used

C proved

D cited

Worked steps

A. mentioned.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A sophisticated move should be

A anchored to the argument

B appended at the end

C omitted

D repeated

Solution 3.2

A anchored to the argument



B appended at the end

C omitted

D repeated

Worked steps

A. anchored to the argument.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

An essay raises a rival reading in its third paragraph to sharpen its own claim.

- (a) State whether this is mentioning or using.
- (b) Explain why the placement matters.

Solution 3.3

Method: Connected, not decorative

Worked steps

(a) using **B1**. (b) mid-essay the alternative can affect the claims that follow **B1**, whereas at the end it can only be noted after the argument is complete **B1**.