

1.7 Developing a paragraph with claim and evidence

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

Objective

Build the skills to write a **claim** 主张 defended by evidence.

You must be able to:

- state what close reading enables a writer to do
- define a claim in the CED's terms
- name the initial components of a literary paragraph
- distinguish a claim from an observation

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Close reading

Writers read a text closely to identify details that, in combination, enable them to make and defend a claim about an aspect of the text. "In combination" —one detail rarely supports a claim.

■ A claim

A claim is a statement that requires defense with evidence from the text. If nothing could count as evidence for it, it is not a claim.

■ Two components

The initial components of a paragraph are the claim and textual evidence that defends the claim. Claim first, then evidence.

■ Claim and observation

"The narrator is a soldier" is an observation —it is simply true or false. "The narrator's military habits of mind blunt his account of the funeral" is a claim: it needs defending.

2 Practice

2.1 Define a claim in the CED’s terms. [2]

2.2 Name the initial components of a literary paragraph. [2]

2.3 A claim is not an observation.

(a) State the difference. [2]

(b) State what "in combination" adds. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A claim is a statement that requires [1]

- **A** defense with evidence from the text
- **B** no support
- **C** a biography
- **D** a summary

3.2 The first component of a literary paragraph is [1]

- **A** the evidence
- **B** the claim
- **C** the conclusion
- **D** the title

3.3 A student writes: "The poem contains three similes."

(a) State whether this is a claim. [1]

(b) Rewrite it as one.

[2]

4 Go further

- work through the **1.7 Developing a paragraph with claim and evidence** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Short Fiction I** section of the AP English Literature handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 a statement that requires defense with evidence from the text.

2.2 the claim and textual evidence that defends it.

2.3 (a) an observation is simply true or false; a claim needs defending with evidence. (b) that a claim usually rests on several details together rather than one.

3.1 A. defense with textual evidence.

3.2 B. the claim comes first.

3.3 (a) no —it is an observation. (b) any claim requiring defense, e.g. "the poem's three similes all draw on machinery, which makes the speaker's grief sound mechanical".