

1.7 Developing a paragraph with claim and evidence

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS claim 主张

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]

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”.