

4.12 Developing commentary

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

Objective

Build the skills to build a **body paragraph** 主体段落.

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

1 Worked examples

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

■ 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.

■ 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.

■ 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.

■ 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.

2 Practice

2.1 State what body paragraphs do. [2]

2.2 State the two jobs of a topic sentence. [2]

2.3 Paragraphs must earn their place.

(a) State the test. [2]

(b) State what makes a sequence a line of reasoning. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Commentary in a body paragraph links the evidence to [1]

- **A** the overall thesis
- **B** the author's life
- **C** the next book
- **D** the page number

3.2 A topic sentence states a claim and [1]

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

3.3 A paragraph could be deleted without weakening the argument.

(a) State what this shows. [1]

(b) Explain the fix.

[2]

4 Go further

- work through the **4.12 Developing commentary** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Short Fiction II** section of the AP English Literature handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

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

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

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

3.1 A. the overall thesis.

3.2 A. the reasoning connecting them.

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