

9.7 Developing commentary

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

Objective

Build the skills to sustain **sophisticated reasoning** 高层次推理.

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

1 Worked examples

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

■ Line of reasoning

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

■ Three moves

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

■ 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.

■ 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.

2 Practice

2.1 Define a line of reasoning.

[2]

2.2 State the three sophisticated moves. [3]

2.3 Sophistication belongs inside the reasoning.

(a) State the difference between mentioning and using an alternative. [2]

(b) State what "broader context" can mean for a novel. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 An alternative interpretation dismissed in one final sentence has been [1]

- **A** mentioned, not used
 - **B** fully used
 - **C** proved
 - **D** cited
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3.2 A sophisticated move should be [1]

- **A** anchored to the argument
 - **B** appended at the end
 - **C** omitted
 - **D** repeated
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3.3 An essay raises a rival reading in its third paragraph to sharpen its own claim.

(a) State whether this is mentioning or using. [1]

(b) Explain why the placement matters. [2]

4 Go further

- work through the **9.7 Developing commentary** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Longer Fiction or Drama III** section of the AP English Literature handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

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

2.2 significance within a broader context; alternative interpretations; relevant analogies.

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

3.1 A. mentioned.

3.2 A. anchored to the argument.

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