

9.8 Selecting relevant and sufficient evidence

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

Objective

Build the skills to marshal evidence **from memory** 凭记忆取证.

You must be able to:

- state the conditions for effectiveness and sufficiency
- explain the difficulty of writing without the text
- state what the recursive process permits
- prepare a text so its evidence is available

1 Worked examples

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

■ Conditions

Effective: commentary explains a logical relationship between evidence and claim.

Sufficient: quantity and quality provide apt support for the line of reasoning.

■ Without the text

In a literary argument essay the book is not in front of you. Evidence must be recalled accurately, which means preparing a small number of passages you know precisely rather than a general impression of the whole.

■ Recursive

An interpretation can emerge from analysing evidence or from forming a line of reasoning and then identifying evidence. With a remembered text, the second order is usually forced —and it is legitimate.

■ Preparation

For each text, know a handful of specific moments —a decision, an image, an exchange —well enough to describe them precisely. Precise description of a remembered scene is admissible evidence; a vague gesture at the novel is not.

2 Practice

2.1 State the conditions for effectiveness and sufficiency. [2]

2.2 Explain the difficulty of writing without the text. [2]

2.3 Preparation makes evidence available.

(a) State what to prepare. [2]

(b) State which order of the recursive process is usually forced. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Precise description of a remembered scene is [1]

- **A** admissible evidence
- **B** never acceptable
- **C** a substitute for a thesis
- **D** commentary

3.2 With a remembered text the usual order is [1]

- **A** line of reasoning first, then evidence
- **B** evidence first, then reasoning
- **C** neither
- **D** both simultaneously

3.3 Write a claim about a text you know well and name two specific moments that would defend it. [4]

4 Go further

- work through the **9.8 Selecting relevant and sufficient evidence** 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 effective when commentary explains a logical relationship between evidence and claim; sufficient when quantity and quality aptly support the line of reasoning.

2.2 the text is not available, so evidence must be recalled accurately rather than located.

2.3 (a) a small number of specific moments —a decision, an image, an exchange —known precisely. (b) forming the line of reasoning first and then identifying evidence.

3.1 A. admissible.

3.2 A. reasoning first.

3.3 a claim requiring defense; a first moment described precisely; a second moment described precisely; both related to the claim rather than listed.