

3.8 Developing commentary

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

KEY WORDS commentary 评述 • line of reasoning 推理线索

Objective

Build the skills to write **commentary** 评述.

You must be able to:

- define a line of reasoning
- state how a line of reasoning is communicated
- distinguish commentary from evidence
- explain why commentary is where the essay’s argument lives

1 Worked examples

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

■ Line of reasoning

A line of reasoning is the logical sequence of claims that work together to defend the overarching thesis statement. A sequence, so the order of claims is itself an argument.

■ How it is communicated

Through commentary that explains the logical relationship between the overarching thesis statement and the claims/evidence within the body of an essay.

■ Commentary and evidence

Evidence is from the text; commentary is the writer’s. Commentary says what the evidence shows and why that supports the claim. An essay of quotations has no argument.

■ Where the argument lives

Two students may use identical quotations and reach different conclusions. The difference is entirely in the commentary, which is why it carries the reasoning.

2 Practice

2.1 Define a line of reasoning. [2]

2.2 State how it is communicated. [2]

2.3 Commentary is not evidence.

(a) State the difference. [2]

(b) Explain why commentary carries the argument. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A line of reasoning is a logical [1]

- A

B

C

D
- A sequence of claims

B list of quotations

C summary of the plot

D set of definitions

3.2 Commentary explains the logical relationship between the thesis and [1]

- A

B

C

D
- A the claims and evidence

B the author’s life

C the page numbers

D the genre

3.3 Two essays use the same quotations and disagree.

(a) State where the disagreement lies.

[1]

(b) Explain what this shows about commentary.

[2]
