

4.12 Developing commentary

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 18 marks**

KEY WORDS body paragraph 主体段落 • topic sentences 主题句 • protagonist 主人公

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 | B |
| C | D |
- 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 | B |
| C | D |
- 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.

- State what this shows. [1]
- Explain the fix. [2]

3.4 Full free-response task. A novel’s protagonist, offered the job she has wanted for years, asks for a week to decide, and spends that week doing nothing but reorganising her bookshelves. She accepts on the last day.

Write an essay that argues an interpretation of what this week reveals about the character, developing your argument in fully built body paragraphs.

Marked on the AP 6-point rubric: **Row A** — Thesis (1), **Row B** — Evidence and Commentary (4), **Row C** — Sophistication (1).

[6]

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