

Exercise walk-through

Developing a paragraph with claim and evidence ■ 2.4

eXercise

You must be able to

- write commentary that names what the evidence rules out
- use more than one piece of evidence in a single paragraph
- keep a paragraph unified around one claim
- avoid a paragraph that is all evidence or all assertion

Method — Commentary that rules something out

The strongest commentary does not only say what the evidence shows; it says what it makes **unlikely**. “Attendance rose in the year fees were introduced” rules out price as the barrier, and that exclusion is the argument.

Method — Two pieces, one claim

Where two pieces of evidence differ in kind — a figure and a case — the paragraph gains because they fail in different ways. Say why you have both.

Method — Unity

One claim per paragraph. If a second claim appears halfway through, the paragraph has become two and the reader loses the thread.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what the strongest commentary does beyond restating evidence.

Solution 2.1

Method: Commentary that rules something out

Worked steps

it says what the evidence makes unlikely **B1**, excluding a rival explanation rather than only restating **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State one advantage of using two kinds of evidence in one paragraph.

Solution 2.2

Method: Two pieces, one claim

Worked steps

the two kinds fail in different ways **B1**, so a reader who distrusts one may accept the other **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

A paragraph opens with a claim about cost and ends with a claim about fairness.

- (a) State the problem.
- (b) State the fix.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) the paragraph contains two claims, so it has lost unity **B1**. (b) split it into two paragraphs, one claim each **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Commentary that names what the evidence makes unlikely is stronger because it

- A** is longer
- B** excludes a rival explanation
- C** repeats the claim
- D** adds a second claim

Solution 3.1

Method: Commentary that rules something out

- A is longer
- B excludes a rival explanation 
- C repeats the claim
- D adds a second claim

Worked steps

B. excluding a rival explanation is what makes the evidence decisive.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A paragraph consisting only of assertion fails because

- A** it is too short
- B** the reader is given no reason to accept it
- C** it lacks transitions
- D** the diction is informal

Solution 3.2

Method: Two pieces, one claim

- A it is too short
- B the reader is given no reason to accept it 
- C it lacks transitions
- D the diction is informal

Worked steps

B. assertion gives the reader nothing to accept it on.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 4 marks

Write a paragraph of four sentences supporting the claim: “Free museum entry changes who visits, not only how many.”

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

disputable claim stated **B1**; relevant evidence **B1**; commentary connecting evidence to claim **B1**; the paragraph stays on one claim **B1**.