

Exercise walk-through

Developing a paragraph with claim and evidence ■ 3.2

eXercise

You must be able to

- state the assumption connecting your evidence to your claim
- defend that assumption briefly where a reader might doubt it
- keep the paragraph to what the evidence earns
- avoid overclaiming in the final sentence

Method — Making the assumption explicit

“Attendance rose after the change” supports “the change worked” only if other factors held steady. Saying so — “no other alteration was made that year” — turns an implicit leap into an argued step.

Method — Defending briefly

You do not need a paragraph on the assumption; a clause is often enough. The point is that the reader can see the step rather than being carried over it.

Method — Not overclaiming

A paragraph that has earned “this suggests” should not end on “this proves”. The last sentence is where overclaiming usually happens, because it is where a writer wants to sound decisive.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what making an assumption explicit achieves.

Solution 2.1

Method: Making the assumption explicit

Worked steps

it turns an implicit leap into an argued step **B1**, so the reader can see and test the connection **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State where in a paragraph overclaiming most often occurs and why.

Solution 2.2

Method: Not overclaiming

Worked steps

in the final sentence **B1**, because that is where a writer wants to sound decisive **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

Evidence: library visits rose 20% in the year a café opened inside.

- (a) State a claim this evidence earns.
- (b) State a claim it does not.

Solution 2.3

Method: Making the assumption explicit

Worked steps

(a) that visits and the café's opening coincided, and the café may have contributed **B1**. (b) that the café caused the whole rise **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

A paragraph whose evidence supports “suggests” but which concludes “proves” has

- A** overclaimed
- B** underclaimed
- C** lost unity
- D** used the wrong transition

Solution 3.1

Method: Not overclaiming

A overclaimed



B underclaimed

C lost unity

D used the wrong transition

Worked steps

A. the conclusion exceeds what the evidence supports.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Defending an assumption in a single clause is usually

- A** insufficient in every case
- B** enough to make the step visible to the reader
- C** a digression
- D** a concession

Solution 3.2

Method: Defending briefly

- A insufficient in every case
- B enough to make the step visible to the reader 
- C a digression
- D a concession

Worked steps

- B. the aim is visibility, not exhaustive defence.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 4 marks

Write a paragraph of four sentences that states a claim, gives evidence, names the assumption, and stops at what the evidence earns.

Solution 3.3

Method: Defending briefly

Worked steps

claim **B1**; evidence **B1**; assumption named **B1**; conclusion limited to what the evidence earns **B1**.