

Exercise walk-through

Developing a paragraph with claim and evidence ■ 6.2

eXercise

You must be able to

- state the strongest objection to your own evidence
- answer it inside the paragraph without derailing it
- choose evidence that is hard to dismiss
- avoid a paragraph that ignores an obvious counter

Method — Naming the objection

Before writing, ask what a hostile but fair reader would say about your evidence. “That was one city, and an unusual one” is the sort of answer to expect.

Method — Answering inside the paragraph

A clause is usually enough: “...and while the city is unusually dense, the same pattern appears in three smaller ones.” The objection is met without becoming the subject.

Method — Hard-to-dismiss evidence

Evidence produced by a source with no interest in the conclusion, or a case that runs against the writer's own preference, is harder to dismiss. Choosing it is a rhetorical decision.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State the question to ask about your own evidence before writing.

Solution 2.1

Method: Naming the objection

Worked steps

what would a hostile but fair reader say about it **B1**; that is the objection to answer **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain what makes a piece of evidence hard to dismiss.

Solution 2.2

Method: Hard-to-dismiss evidence

Worked steps

it comes from a source with no interest in the conclusion **B1**, or it runs against the writer's own preference **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

Your only evidence is one large city's experience.

- (a) State the objection.
- (b) Write a clause that answers it.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) that one large city is unrepresentative **B1**. (b) a clause conceding the point and limiting its force, e.g. “...and although that city is unusually dense, the same pattern appears in smaller ones” **B2**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Answering an objection inside a paragraph is best done

A at paragraph length

B in a clause or a sentence

C in a footnote

D not at all

Solution 3.1

Method: Answering inside the paragraph

- A at paragraph length
- B in a clause or a sentence** 
- C in a footnote
- D not at all

Worked steps

B. brevity keeps the objection from becoming the subject.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Evidence from a source with no interest in the conclusion is

A less credible

B harder to dismiss

C irrelevant

D anecdotal

Solution 3.2

Method: Hard-to-dismiss evidence

- A less credible
- B harder to dismiss
- C irrelevant
- D anecdotal



Worked steps

B. disinterest strengthens the evidence.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 4 marks

Write a paragraph of four sentences that makes a claim, gives evidence, names the strongest objection, and answers it.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

claim **B1**; evidence **B1**; strongest objection named **B1**; objection answered without derailing the paragraph **B1**.