

## Exercise walk-through

Writing introductions and conclusions ■ 7.2

eXercise

## You must be able to

- open by granting something to a resistant reader
- avoid an opening concession that gives away the claim
- close by stating what remains true after the concessions
- distinguish a conclusion that concedes from one that retreats

## Method — Opening with a concession

Granting a real point at the start buys attention from a reader who expects to disagree. “The scheme will cost more in its first three years” costs nothing if the argument is that it is still worth it.

## Method — Not giving away the claim

A concession must be about something other than the claim itself. Granting that the scheme may not work is not a concession; it is the argument abandoned.

## Method — Closing after concessions

The strongest close states what survives: “Even allowing for the cost and the disruption, the alternative leaves the same problem unsolved.” That is a conclusion, not a summary.

## Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what an opening concession buys and what it must not cost.

## Solution 2.1

Method: Opening with a concession

### Worked steps

it buys the attention of a reader who expects to disagree **B1**; it must not cost the central claim **B1**.

## Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain the difference between conceding and retreating in a conclusion.



## Solution 2.2

### Worked steps

conceding grants a point and states what survives **B1**; retreating withdraws the claim itself **B1**.

## Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Claim: “The city should pedestrianise its centre.”

- (a) Write an opening concession.
- (b) State why it does not give away the claim.

## Solution 2.3

Method: Not giving away the claim

### Worked steps

(a) a real concession about something other than the claim, e.g. that deliveries and access for disabled residents become harder **B2**. (b) it grants a cost, not the claim that the change is worth making **B1**.

## Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Granting that your own proposal may not work is

- A** an effective concession
- B** the argument abandoned
- C** a qualification
- D** a thesis

## Solution 3.1

Method: Not giving away the claim

**A** an effective concession

**B** the argument abandoned 

**C** a qualification

**D** a thesis

### Worked steps

**B.** the claim is the one thing that cannot be conceded.

## Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A strong conclusion after several concessions states

- A** what was said
- B** what survives them
- C** a new claim
- D** the writer's feelings

## Solution 3.2

Method: Closing after concessions

- A what was said
- B what survives them
- C a new claim
- D the writer's feelings



### Worked steps

- B. the conclusion states what the concessions leave standing.

## Exam-style 3.3 ■ 4 marks

Write a two-sentence conclusion for an argument that has conceded both cost and disruption.



## Solution 3.3

Method: Closing after concessions

### Worked steps

acknowledges the conceded costs **B2**; states what remains true and why it is decisive **B2**.