

Exercise walk-through

Developing a paragraph with claim and evidence ■ 2.7

eXercise

You must be able to

- state what close reading enables
- explain what makes evidence from a poem different
- name the initial components of a paragraph
- avoid quoting without defending

Method — Close reading

Writers **read a text closely to identify details that, in combination, enable them to make and defend a claim about an aspect of the text.** The same standard as 1.7, applied to a poem.

Method — Evidence in poetry

A poem's evidence is small — a word, a break, a comparison — so “in combination” carries more weight here. Two or three details supporting one claim is the shape of a strong paragraph.

Method — Two components

The claim and textual evidence that defends the claim. Claim first.

Method — Quoting is not defending

A quotation placed after a claim proves nothing until the writer says what in the quotation supports it. The words carrying the weight must be identified.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what close reading enables a writer to do.

Solution 2.1

Method: Close reading

Worked steps

identify details that, in combination, enable a claim **B1** that can be made and defended about an aspect of the text **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain why “in combination” matters especially in poetry.

Solution 2.2

Method: Evidence in poetry

Worked steps

a poem's evidence is small **B1**, so a claim usually rests on two or three details working together **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Quoting is not defending.

- (a) State what a writer must add after a quotation.
- (b) State the components of the paragraph's opening.

Solution 2.3

Method: Quoting is not defending

Worked steps

(a) a statement of what in the quotation supports the claim **B1**, identifying the words carrying the weight **B1**. (b) the claim and the textual evidence that defends it **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

A poem's evidence is typically

- A** small — a word, a break, a comparison
- B** a whole chapter
- C** the poet's biography
- D** the publication date

Solution 3.1

Method: Evidence in poetry

A small — a word, a break, a comparison



B a whole chapter

C the poet's biography

D the publication date

Worked steps

A. small units of text.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A quotation supports a claim only when the writer

A identifies what in it carries the weight

B makes it longer

C puts it first

D omits the claim

Solution 3.2

Method: Quoting is not defending

A identifies what in it carries the weight



B makes it longer

C puts it first

D omits the claim

Worked steps

A. identifying the operative words.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 4 marks

Write a claim about a poem you know and name two details that would defend it.

Solution 3.3

Method: Close reading

Worked steps

a claim requiring defense (B1); a first detail identified precisely (B1); a second detail identified precisely (B1); the two related to the claim rather than listed (B1).