

## Practice Writing Commentary

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**Topic 1:** *Prove that mankind should not waste time or resources trying to colonize Mars.*

**Assertion:** The severe conditions on the planet's surface would prohibit any quality of life.

**Evidence:** The average temperature on Mars is -81 degrees° F. Dust storms often spread over the planet. And most importantly, there is no liquid water, a substance vital for human life.

*(How does this evidence prove that mankind should not live on Mars? Why should your reader agree?)*

**Commentary:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Topic 2:** *Prove that the octopus is a drastically underappreciated aquatic animal.*

**Assertion:** The cleverness of the octopus extends far beyond most creatures of the sea.

**Evidence:** While on his boat, the French naturalist Jacques Cousteau observed an octopus climb out of a tank, feel its way off a table, crawl over the deck, and finally flee to the freedom of the ocean below.

*(How does this evidence show that the octopus is superior to other aquatic animals in cleverness?)*

**Commentary:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Topic 3:** *Prove that Christians should live a life filled with prayer.*

**Assertion:** Prayer provides believers with a way to let go of their everyday worries.

**Evidence:** "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Phil. 4:6)

*(Why does this scripture matter? How is it a benefit? How does it prove that Christians need to pray?)*

**Commentary:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Topic 4:** *Prove that parents should use more positive reinforcement when training their children.*

**Assertion:** Parents should positively motivate their children to help the family.

**Evidence:** When I turned 7, my parents began giving me an allowance as a positive reinforcement for completing chores. In only a short time, I learned to consistently take responsibility for my own weekly tasks.

*(Why is this personal story significant? How could it benefit all children more broadly? Benefit all parents?)*

**Commentary:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Helpful Commentary Words: confirms, defends, demonstrates, displays, illustrates, proves, reveals, shows*