

A Centennial Reflection by Michelle Duster (excerpt) Select The Correct Answer. Which Sentence Develops

A Centennial Reflection by Michelle Duster (excerpt) Select The Correct Answer. Which Sentence Develops in the first paragraph

Understanding how a well-crafted introductory paragraph sets the tone for an article is essential, especially when analyzing literary excerpts like Michelle Duster's "A Centennial Reflection." This piece not only celebrates a significant milestone but also encourages reflection on historical progress and ongoing struggles. The opening sentence in such reflections often plays a crucial role, as it introduces the main theme and guides the reader into the subsequent discussion. In this article, we will explore how the opening sentence of Michelle Duster's excerpt effectively develops the central ideas, the importance of sentence development in storytelling, and how to identify the sentence that best furthers the narrative or argument.

The Significance of the Opening Sentence in Reflective Writing

A well-constructed opening sentence is vital in setting the context and engaging readers. For reflective essays or excerpts like Michelle Duster's, the first sentence typically aims to:

- Establish the theme or subject matter
- Create an emotional or intellectual connection with readers
- Preview the tone and direction of the reflection

In "A Centennial Reflection," the opening sentence functions as a gateway into the author's thoughts about a century of history, progress, and ongoing challenges. It often encapsulates the essence of what the reflection aims to convey, making it a critical element in sentence development.

Analyzing the Opening Sentence of Michelle Duster's Excerpt

When analyzing the excerpt, it's important to identify which sentence best develops the main idea. Typically, the options will include:

1. A sentence that provides background information.
2. A sentence that introduces a personal anecdote.

3. A sentence that states the main theme or thesis.

4. A sentence that offers a historical fact.

Choosing the sentence that develops the central idea involves examining how each contributes to understanding the reflection's purpose.

How to Identify the Developing Sentence

To determine which sentence develops the main idea, consider these criteria:

1. Relevance to the Central Theme

The sentence should directly relate to the core message or purpose of the excerpt.

2. Depth of Content

It must add meaningful information or context that enhances understanding.

3. Connection to the Overall Narrative

The sentence should logically lead into subsequent ideas or reflections.

Applying these criteria to Michelle Duster's excerpt helps clarify which sentence truly advances the main ideas.

Sample Opening Sentences and Their Functions

Let's examine common types of opening sentences in reflective writings:

- **Background Information:** "A hundred years ago, the world looked vastly different." – Sets historical context but may not develop the main idea directly.
- **Personal Reflection:** "As I reflect on the past century, I am filled with both pride and concern." – Introduces personal perspective, engaging the reader emotionally.
- **Main Thesis Statement:** "This reflection explores the progress made and the challenges that remain in our journey toward equality." – Clearly states the central theme and develops the main idea.
- **Historical Fact:** "The 20th century witnessed groundbreaking changes in civil rights movements." – Provides factual background that supports the reflection.

Among these, the sentence that best develops the main idea is typically the thesis statement, as it explicitly states what the reflection will cover.

Applying This to Michelle Duster's Reflection

In Michelle Duster's "A Centennial Reflection," the excerpt begins with a sentence that likely encapsulates the overarching theme—be it progress, remembrance, or ongoing struggles. The subsequent sentences build upon this foundation, elaborating on historical milestones, personal stories, or future aspirations.

For example, if the first sentence reads:

"A hundred years after the birth of my great-grandmother, I stand here reflecting on her legacy and the journey of our community."

This sentence introduces the personal connection, historical context, and central theme simultaneously, effectively developing the main ideas.

Alternatively, if the opening reads:

"The past century has seen remarkable advancements in civil rights, yet many challenges persist."

It directly states the progress and ongoing struggles, setting up a balanced reflection.

In each case, the key is that the opening sentence functions as a springboard, leading into more detailed discussion, personal anecdotes, or critical analysis.

Conclusion: The Power of Sentence Development in Reflective Writing

Identifying which sentence develops the main idea in Michelle Duster's "A Centennial Reflection" underscores the importance of clarity and purpose in writing. The opening sentence should serve as a concise, compelling statement that frames the entire reflection, guiding readers through the narrative. When analyzing such excerpts, look for sentences that explicitly state or imply the main themes, as these are the ones that develop the core message most effectively.

By understanding how to recognize and craft effective opening sentences, writers can enhance the impact of their reflections and ensure their messages resonate deeply with readers. Whether discussing historical progress or personal journeys, the ability to develop a central idea through carefully chosen sentences is a vital skill in both academic and creative writing.

Summary of Key Points:

- The opening sentence sets the tone and introduces the main theme.
- Effective sentence development involves relevance, depth, and logical connection.
- The thesis or main idea sentence typically best develops the core message.

- Analyzing Michelle Duster's excerpt reveals how the first sentence functions to guide the reflection.

Understanding these principles helps readers and writers alike appreciate the power of well-crafted sentences in storytelling and reflection.

Frequently Asked Questions

Which sentence in 'A Centennial Reflection' by Michelle Duster best develops the main theme of progress over time?

The sentence that highlights the advancements made in civil rights over the past century.

In the excerpt, which sentence provides a personal connection to the historical events discussed?

The sentence where Michelle Duster shares her family's experiences and legacy.

Which sentence in the excerpt serves as a transition between discussing past struggles and future hopes?

The sentence that emphasizes the importance of continuing the fight for equality.

Which sentence best elaborates on the significance of the centennial celebration?

The sentence that describes how the event honors those who paved the way for current achievements.

In the excerpt, which sentence introduces a reflection on the challenges faced by earlier generations?

The sentence that mentions the hardships endured during the civil rights movement.

Which sentence enhances the overall message of hope and perseverance in the excerpt?

The sentence that encourages ongoing activism and community involvement for future progress.

Additional Resources

A Centennial Reflection by Michelle Duster (Excerpt): Which Sentence Develops?

Introduction

Michelle Duster's *A Centennial Reflection* offers a compelling and nuanced look at the life and legacy of her great-grandfather, the legendary abolitionist and civil rights leader, Frederick Douglass. As an author, historian, and granddaughter, Duster's work is both a personal tribute and a scholarly exploration, blending historical insights with contemporary reflections. One of the key elements that make her writing impactful is her skillful use of sentence development—crafting sentences that deepen understanding, evoke emotion, and guide the reader through complex ideas.

In this article, we will analyze an excerpt from *A Centennial Reflection* to identify which sentence best develops a central idea, adopting the tone of an expert review. We will explore how sentence structure, word choice, and placement work together to enhance the reader's engagement and comprehension.

Understanding Sentence Development in Literary Analysis

Before diving into the specific excerpt, it's important to clarify what "sentence development" entails in literary and analytical contexts. Sentence development refers to how a sentence expands on a main idea, adding detail, nuance, or emphasis. Effective development can:

- Clarify complex concepts
- Build emotional resonance
- Create rhythm and pacing
- Reinforce thematic elements

In scholarly writing or reflective essays, well-developed sentences often contain a combination of:

- Main ideas (theses or claims)
- Supporting details (examples, evidence, elaboration)
- Concluding or transition phrases (to connect ideas smoothly)

The goal is to select sentences that serve as "building blocks," moving the argument or reflection forward.

Examining the Excerpt from *A Centennial*

Reflection

While the full excerpt isn't provided here, let's consider a hypothetical yet representative passage from Michelle Duster's reflection. This excerpt might include sentences such as:

A) "Frederick Douglass's legacy is a testament to the enduring power of resilience and the pursuit of justice."

B) "Reflecting on his life, I am struck by how his words continue to inspire generations, guiding us toward equality and freedom."

C) "Throughout history, many have fought for justice, but Douglass's voice remains a beacon, illuminating the path forward."

D) "As I look back over a hundred years, I realize that his influence is woven into the fabric of our society, shaping the ongoing struggle for civil rights."

Analyzing Each Sentence's Developmental Role

Let's analyze each sentence's potential to develop a central idea, considering tone, complexity, and contribution to the overall reflection.

Sentence A

"Frederick Douglass's legacy is a testament to the enduring power of resilience and the pursuit of justice."

- Developmental Aspects: This sentence states a broad thesis about Douglass's legacy, framing the central theme of resilience and justice. It acts as a foundational claim, setting the stage for subsequent elaboration. It's concise and declarative, establishing a key idea that can be expanded upon.

- Strengths: Clear, impactful, and thematic. It introduces core concepts that can be further developed with supporting sentences.

Sentence B

"Reflecting on his life, I am struck by how his words continue to inspire generations, guiding us toward equality and freedom."

- Developmental Aspects: This sentence personalizes the reflection, connecting Douglass's influence to current generations. It emphasizes the ongoing relevance of his words, adding emotional depth and immediacy.

- Strengths: Combines personal reflection with thematic development, illustrating the living impact of Douglass's legacy.

Sentence C

“Throughout history, many have fought for justice, but Douglass’s voice remains a beacon, illuminating the path forward.”

- Developmental Aspects: This sentence provides context by acknowledging others’ efforts but elevates Douglass’s unique influence. The metaphor “beacon” adds vivid imagery, emphasizing his enduring importance.

- Strengths: It develops the idea of legacy within a broader historical context, reinforcing Douglass’s distinguished role.

Sentence D

“As I look back over a hundred years, I realize that his influence is woven into the fabric of our society, shaping the ongoing struggle for civil rights.”

- Developmental Aspects: This sentence connects historical reflection to societal change, illustrating the pervasive influence of Douglass’s legacy. The metaphor “woven into the fabric” suggests integration and enduring presence.

- Strengths: Deepens the thematic development by linking past and present, emphasizing the continuity of the civil rights movement.

Selecting the Sentence That Best Develops the Central Idea

Based on this analysis, Sentence A stands out as the most effective in developing the central idea of the excerpt. Here’s why:

- It explicitly states the core theme—the legacy of Frederick Douglass—and ties it to essential qualities like resilience and justice.

- It functions as a thesis statement, providing a clear anchor for the reflection.

- Its concise nature leaves room for subsequent sentences to elaborate, making it an ideal candidate for the main development.

However, if the goal is to find the sentence that most richly elaborates or adds emotional depth to the central idea, then Sentence D is also compelling. It connects personal reflection with societal influence, deepening the reader’s understanding of Douglass’s ongoing impact.

Expert Perspective: The Role of Sentence Development in Reflective Writing

From an expert's standpoint, effective reflective writing—such as Duster's excerpt—relies heavily on sentences that develop ideas through:

- Vivid imagery (e.g., “woven into the fabric”)
- Personal connection (e.g., “I am struck by how his words continue to inspire”)
- Historical context (e.g., “Throughout history, many have fought for justice”)

The sentence that best develops the central idea balances clarity, emotional resonance, and thematic richness. In a review or analysis, highlighting such sentences underscores the writer's mastery of crafting a compelling narrative.

Conclusion

Identifying the sentence that develops a central idea is crucial for understanding and appreciating reflective or analytical texts. In Michelle Duster's *A Centennial Reflection*, the sentences examined serve different developmental roles:

- Sentence A offers a concise thesis.
- Sentence B personalizes the reflection.
- Sentence C contextualizes Douglass's influence.
- Sentence D links history with societal change.

Among these, Sentence A most effectively sets the foundation by clearly stating the core theme, making it the best choice in a multiple-choice question focused on sentence development. Nonetheless, the other sentences contribute richly to the overall depth and emotional impact of the reflection.

In sum, well-crafted sentences that develop ideas thoroughly are essential in creating a meaningful, engaging reflection—qualities that Michelle Duster exemplifies in her tribute to her great-grandfather's enduring legacy.

Disclaimer: The analysis above is based on an illustrative excerpt. Actual sentences from *A Centennial Reflection* may vary, but the principles of sentence development remain consistent across reflective writing.

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