

Prompt: In the passage below from *Staying Put: Making a Home in a Restless World*, Scott Russell Sanders responds to an essay by Salman Rushdie, a writer who left his native India for England. Rushdie describes the "effect of mass migrations" as being "the creation of radically new types of human being: people who root themselves in ideas rather than places." Read the Sanders passage carefully. Then write an essay in which you analyze the strategies Sanders uses to develop his perspective about moving.

Exemplar essay

In response to an essay by Salman Rushdie on the benefits of moving, Scott Russell Sanders, in his essay "Staying Put: Making a Home in a Restless World," refutes "the belief that movement is inherently good." He claims that we should not root ourselves in places rather than ideas, but that we should care for the earth rather than their own selfish desires. Through his use of direct quotes, acknowledgement of the counter-argument, and information yet respectful tone, Sanders relates his belief that we must settle down and cease our tireless moving if we are to ever "pay enough heed and respect to where we are."

Sanders's essay was written purely in response to Rushdie's essay--therefore he quotes Rushdie several times directly and then states his own beliefs in similar ways. For example, Sanders first quotes Rushdie in saying that, "to be migrant is perhaps to be the only species of human beings free of the shackles of nationalism (to say nothing of its ugly sister, patriotism);" then Sanders asserts his statement by saying, "Lord knows we could do with less nationalism (to say nothing of its ugly siblings racism, religious sectarianism, or class snobbery." In quoting Rushdie directly, repeating his syntax, Sanders not only assures people of his careful thoughtfulness on the issue, but also states, his own belief that moving does nothing to rid us of the unfortunate aspects of humanity from which we all wish to be free. He also quotes Rushdie several other times, such as "Rushdie claims that 'migrants must...make a new imaginative relationship with the world;" then uses this idea as a counter example to one of his main points -- how can one create a new relationship with the world when he is constantly altering his place?

Instead of an appositive phrase following name, provides introductory phrase that establishes occasion and authority.

First two sentences include essential information from precis, but not in formulaic manner, including title, subject, speaker, and main claim.

Specifically states three strategies Sanders uses to develop his perspective.

Specifically states Sanders's perspective/purpose, using explicit textual reference.

Transition statement refers back to opening idea of essay, introduces the topic for the paragraph, "quotes" (in alignment with appearance in thesis and in Sanders's essay) and draws off the word "belief" from last sentence of previous paragraph for a smooth and clear transition.

Uses explicit textual example of how Sanders quotes Rushdie

Provides analytical discussion of the example in connection to the main claim.

provides further explicit example with more discussion and connection back to main purpose.

Transition statement again draws off main idea of previous paragraph "direct quotes goes hand and hand..." and introduces topic of this paragraph -- Sanders's means of refutation and introduction of his own points (again in alignment with the opening paragraph list of strategies)

Smoothly integrates the use of explicit text from Sanders into own analysis of Sanders's development of ideas.

Concludes paragraph with the final discussion and connection back to main thesis.

Transition into last strategy in list, drawing of the idea of "respect" made in the previous sentence to introduce tone.

Provides explicit textual examples with specific, descriptive, and analytical discussion of tone.

Further supports analysis by referencing a common logical fallacy "ad hominem" and displaying accurate understanding of fallacy with statement that "...Sanders never attacks Rushdie himself."

Concludes paragraph summing up idea on tone and connecting to main purpose/claim.

Provides the anti-thesis to his opening paragraph in answering the prompt.

Sums up main strategies of body and finalizes main idea.

Sanders use of direct quotes goes hand in hand with his acknowledgement of the opponents argument--he quotes Rushdie only to refute his point and bring up his own points. At first he states parts of Rushdie's argument and agrees with them, such as the "hybridity" of American culture which makes us all the more stronger and wiser. He then moves on to another quote with which he does not so readily agree, but to which he "might respond more skeptically." He then moves on to a third quote and completely disagrees with it. Finally, his development of stating the count-argument is completed when he states that Rushdie articulates exactly "the orthodoxy that [he] wish[es] to count--that movement is inherently good, staying put is bad." He finishes by asserting that we must root ourselves to a specific place in order to pay enough heed and respect to where we are." This gradual movement from agreement to complete disagreement reinforces Sanders' point about staying put and respectfully refutes Rushdie's point.

Instead of being respectfully, his disagreement with Rushdie in principle could have been marked by a condescending and imposing tone; however through his choice of phrases, Sanders tone is informal yet respectful of Rushdie's point of view. He connects himself with the audience and with Rushdie by using such words as "I," "our," and "we." He places himself on the audience's level as well as Rushdie's; he is conversational and informal, yet he is still respectful towards Rushdie and admits that even though he disagrees completely with him, Rushdie articulated his views "as eloquently as anyone." He is respectful of the man whose ideas he is refuting without even a hint of ad hominem in this essay, for Sanders never attacks Rushdie himself. This tone develops his point of non-migration as one that is accessible and easy to understand for all people, as one that we all should hold as fundamental belief of society.

Sanders does not develop his point of view with a vicious verbal slander or disrespectful destruction of Rushdie's well-thought out argument. Rather he uses a respectful as well as informal tone, direct quotes, and acknowledgement and sometimes

agreement with his opponent's argument to develop his own position that staying put is better for all.

AP Score: 9

This essay offers no elaborate introduction. It doesn't need to: The analysis question calls for an examination answer, not a discursive essay, and this student follows an instinct to get right to work on the analysis. The essay first examines Sanders's use of material directly quoted from the Rushdie essay, showing how Sanders uses the Rushdie material as a springboard for developing his own beliefs. The student notes the effect of Sanders's direct quoting: "In quoting Rushdie directly and repeating [sic] his words and syntax, Sanders not only assures the reader of his careful thoughtfulness on the issue, but also states his own belief that moving does nothing to rid us of the unfortunate aspects of humanity of which we all wish to be free." The student next examines how Sanders moves from legitimately and honestly examining Rushdie's argument to offer his own counterargument. The response offers a succinct evaluation of this organizational strategy: "This gradual movement from agreement to complete disagreement reinforces Sander's [sic] point [sic] and respectfully refutes Rushdie's point consequently." Finally, the writer analyzes Sanders's "conversational and informal" tone: "He is respectful of the man whose ideas he is refuting—there is not even a hint of ad hominem argument in this essay, for Sanders never attacks Rushdie himself." In summary, this paper analyzes the logic, organization, and tone of Sanders's essay quite fully and fluently.