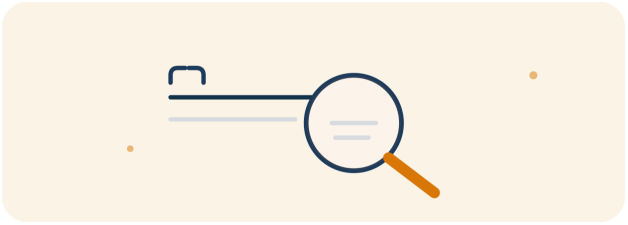
TUTORWOW

The Which-Means Pack

Turn "underdeveloped" feedback into Band 6 analysis with two words



HSC ENGLISH

"Underdeveloped" almost never means you needed more quotes. It means you made a claim about an effect and then stopped, before you proved how the technique gets there. The fix is the phrase "which means". Every time you name an effect, chase it two steps further with "which means" until the idea runs out.

01 The which-means ladder

Develop one idea properly

- **Technique and quote.** Name the device and give the evidence.
- **State the effect.** Say what it does to the reader.
- **Add "which means..." and keep going.** Then do it once more.

Nothing stops at "this shows". Each effect earns at least one "which means" before you move on.

02 A worked example

Weak. The repetition emphasises her grief.

Band 6. The repetition emphasises her grief, which means the reader feels it loop back on her the way grief itself does, so we begin to see it as something she cannot think her way out of, which is the trap the composer wants us to sit inside.

Same quote, same technique. The analysis develops by chasing the consequence rather than adding another quote.

A second one, on structure

Weak. The short sentences build tension.

Band 6. The short sentences build tension, which means the reader is forced to move at the character's panicked pace, so we experience the scene as pressure rather than watch it from outside.

"Which means" converts a label into an effect on the reader.

03 Your checklist

- Every effect I name is followed by "which means" at least once.
- I develop one strong quote rather than listing three weak ones.
- The final clause of each analysis reaches the module concept or the reader's response.
- Nothing stops at "this shows".

Watch out. Answering "underdeveloped" by adding more quotes just turns the paragraph into a list. Develop one quote fully instead, and the depth appears.

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