全国英语等级考试系列用书

(PETS)

新思路 单项技能教材·写作

● 张在新 主编

第五级



高等教育出版社

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# 图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

新思路单项技能教材. 写作. 第 5 级/张在新主编. 北京: 高等教育出版社, 2003.6 (2004 重印) ISBN 7-04-012126-3

I.新... II.张... II.英语一写作一水平考试一 教材 IV.H31 中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2003)第 007431 号

出版发行 高等教育出版社

社 址 北京市西城区德外大街 4号

邮政编码 100011

总 机 010-82028899

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购书热线 010-64054588

免费咨询 800-810-0598

m th http://www.hep.edu.cn

http://www.hep.com.cn

经 销 新华书店北京发行所

印 刷 中国农业出版社印刷厂

开 本 850 × 1168 1/16

印 张 9.25

字 数 230 000

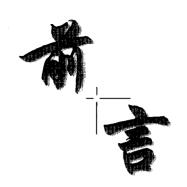
版 次 2003年6月第1版

印 次 2004年6月第2次印刷

定 价 15.00 元

本书如有缺页、倒页、脱页等质量问题,请到所购图书销售部门联系调换。

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# 级别描述

全国英语等级考试体系(Public English Test System, 简称 PETS)是目标参照性考试,其测试重点是考生的语言实际运用能力或交际能力。写作能力的测查是其中重要的一部分。

考试大纲中对 PETS 第五级考试的界定是: "考试五个级别中的最高级, 其标准相当于我国大学英语专业二年级结束时的水平"。"通过该级考试的考生,其英语水平基本满足在国外攻读硕士研究生非英语专业或从事学术研究 工作的需要,该水平的英语也能满足他们在国外从事专业和管理工作的基本需要"。

考试大纲对本级写作技能有明确要求:在文体格式方面,"考生应能写多种类型的文章,包括书信、科研论文、试验报告、申请材料等。同时也能写一般性的或与自己的专业领域相关的描述性、叙述性和说明性的文章。"关于书信、试验报告、申请材料以及描述性、叙述性和说明性文章的写作,在本套教材的前四级中已经分别进行了讲授。本册写作教材是着重针对考生容易忽视的议论文和学术写作而设计的。

# 教材特点

## 1. 写作技巧强化训练

本书将议论文的写作过程分解开来,分别对选题、论点、结构、开头、正文(论据、论证方法)、结尾等步骤进行专项强化训练,通过具体、生动的范例介绍了大量简单易学、行之有效的议论文写作技巧。掌握这些技巧不仅有助于考生备战PETS第五级作文考试,而且为通向英文写作的高级境界奠定坚实基础。

#### 2. 思辨能力综合开发

议论文的写作不仅是对考生语言能力和写作技巧的考验,而且对考生的思辨能力提出了很高的要求。因此,本书不仅重视考生思辨能力的培养,而且专门对提高考生的分析、避免逻辑谬误的种种技巧进行了生动的剖析。领悟这些critical thinking 的技巧,将有助于全面提升读者的思辨能力。

#### 3. 学术写作系统指导

PETS 第五级要求考生具备独立从事学术写作的能力。参加这一级考试的考生大多已具备运用中文从事学术写作的能力,但对利用英文资料从事学术研究并按照西方学术界的规范进行高质量的学术写作尚不得要领。这一障碍使得中国学者很难与西方学界展开平等的对话。有鉴于此,本书比较详尽地介绍了英文学术写作的整个过程以及在此过程中每一阶段的具体任务与解决问题的策略和技巧,相信考生从中不仅能学到如何进行学术写作方面的知识,而且能了解并培养从事学术研究的方法与能力。

#### 4. 习作范文可读可背

议论文和学术论文的写作可以说是英文写作的最高表现形式,它在思想、逻辑和语言等三方面向考生提出了严峻的挑战。为了全面提高议论文和学术论文的写作水平,学习本书中的写作技巧毫无疑问是至关重要的。但仅仅掌握这些技巧是不够的,考生还必须熟读甚至背诵大量的优秀篇章来提高思辨能力和分析性语言表达能力。为此,本书提供了大量例文,涉及各类热门话题,这些话题分为两类:第一类均出自母语为英语的学者、专家之手,供考生赏析、背诵;第二类为优秀学生习作,供考生模仿。毫无疑问,熟读乃至背诵这些文章不仅有助于考生提高写作能力,而且还为准备参加PETS第五级作文考试的考生提供从内容到语言的直接帮助。

最后请考生切记: Practice makes perfect.

编者

2002年11月于北京外国语大学

责任编辑 邓中杰 封面设计 王凌波 版式设计 孙 伟 责任校对 邓中杰 责任印制 杨 明

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高等教育出版社法律事务部

邮 编:100011

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# 第一章

# 议论文概要

# 1

#### 议论文的组成部分

议论文通常由论点、论据、理由、辩护、反驳和让步6个部分组成。

#### 1) 论点

论点即作者在议论文中试图证明的观点。当你提笔写作时,问一问自己:我要论证的是什么?对这个问题的回答就是你的论点或全文的中心思想。论点在文中并没有固定的位置。作者有可能开门见山地申明自己的论点,也有可能在文章结尾处提出,偶尔还会在正文部分给出。当作者与读者在所探讨的问题上有共识时,作者可采用开门见山的方式;反之,当作者意识到与读者存在很大意见分歧时,更为明智的做法是一步步将读者引导到自己的论点上。

一般来说,写议论文时,作者会明确表达自己的论点。但有时候作者有意不明确提出自己的论点,而是让读者去归纳;作者还有可能运用反讽的手法,从反面暗示自己的论点。不管怎样,读者应不难从文中找到或推测出作者的论点。

此外,作者为了支持自己全文的中心论点,还有必要提出相关的分论点。例如:

论点: The environment is the single most serious problem the world faces today.

分论点: 1. The rain forests are being destroyed, causing global warming.

- 2. Increasing population is depleting (耗尽) resources in some parts of the world.
- 3. Many important water sources are being polluted by industry.
- 4. The ozone layer, which protects us from harmful sun rays, is being destroyed by chemicals.

#### 2) 沦据

论据是作者借以说服读者的信息,包括事实性证据、观点、例子以及推论等。例如:

论点: To help our graduates find employment, we must offer more courses in

business and computer.

分论点 1: Students with knowledge of business and computer have more opportunity to find employment in today's job market.

论据: More than 80% of the jobs come from the field of business and computer. (事实)

分论点 2: Our students are lacking in business and computer skills.

论据 1: Most of our students complained about our university's inability to offer various business and computer courses. (观点)

论 据 2: Other universities offer more business and computer courses than us, which explains why their graduates can easily find employment. (例子;推论)

#### 3) 理由

理由包括假设、一般原理、具体领域的惯例、广泛持有的价值观、普遍接受的信念以及对人类基本动机的引用。这些理由虽然是一段论述的重要组成部分,但作者往往隐而不宣。例如:

论点: The president of the university is doing a poor job.

论据: Many teachers are not responsible for their teaching.

隐藏的理由(信念): The president is responsible for the teachers' performance.

再如:

论点: Business profits are adversely affected by environmental protection laws.

论据: Obeying environmental protection laws that call for clean air, for example, costs industry money that could otherwise be realized as profit.

隐藏的理由(价值观): Profit is more important than clean air; or, businesses must make profit to survive; or, environmental protection laws are threatening the market system.

理由是作者提出的,但同时也可能存在于读者的心目中。当作者与读者持有共同的理由时,读者就更容易接受作者的论点;反之,如果作者的理由与读者的理由相互冲突,读者就不会相信作者的论点。例如,在上述第二例中,如果读者不认同作者的价值观: Profit is more important than clean air. 他们就不会接受作者的论点: Business profits are adversely affected by environmental protection laws.

#### 4) 辩护

辩护是作者对理由提供的进一步支持,特别是当读者与作者在理由上没有共识时。例如:

- 论点: We should encourage every student in the chemistry department to take a part-time job.
- 论据: The students who took part-time jobs last semester in the English department not only earned enough money to support themselves, but also did well in their study.
- 理由: The conditions of the students in the chemistry department are similar to those of the English majors.
- 辩护: It is just as easy for chemistry students to find part-time jobs as it is for English students to do so. Statistics could be supplied to show that there is a large demand in the part-time job market for students who major in chemistry, and that the English majors and the chemistry majors have a similar amount of spare time. 在上面的论述中,如果作者能够找到足够的证据来支持自己的理由,那么论点成立:反之,其论点不能成立。

#### 5) 反驳

反驳旨在指出一段论述中的错误或不能接受的东西,或就所探讨的问题提出新的看法。要驳斥一个论点的有效性,我们可以指出其论据的错误或其理由的荒谬。例如,如果要反驳上文中提到的论点: We should encourage every student in the chemistry department to take a part-time job. 我们可以反驳其理由: There are no part-time job opportunities for chemistry majors in the job market. 或者指出: Students in the chemistry department have a much heavier course load than the English majors, so that the former cannot find much time to do part-time jobs.

在议论文中,作者通常有必要在正文部分展开正面论述之前对读者可能提出的反驳做出回应。作者经常用来引出反驳意见的提示词如: Some may disagree...; Others may think...; Other commonly held opinions are...等。

#### 6) 让步

让步也是议论文的一个明显特征。作者必须清楚,议论文的目的往往并不是要论证一个确定无疑的观点,而是要探讨在某一问题上可能采取的立场。因此,作者一般避免使用过于绝对或武断的词,而是使用一些具有限定意义的词以表明对反驳意见所做出的让步,如:

always; never —— sometimes is; are —— maybe; might

all --- many; some

none —— few

absolutely ---- probably; possibly

当然,如果理由充分,你也可以持有非常肯定的立场。

议论文的上述6要素有助于我们在写作议论文时把握重点、理清思路。因此,建议在写作前或写作过程中不妨思考一下这6个方面的问题:

我的论点是什么?

确定全文的核心论点以及分论点,并考虑在文章的哪一部分提出论点。

- 我将使用哪些论据?搜集事实、例子、权威观点,等等。
- 我的理由是什么?

理由是论据与论点之间的桥梁。你不妨写出自己的理由,看看它们是否能严密 地连接论据与论点。你自己相信它们吗?读者会认同还是反对呢?

- 我应该为理由提供怎样的辩护?
  为了使理由令人信服,理应考虑增加调查数据、研究结果、专家意见或事实。
- 我应该怎样处理读者的反驳?
  在文中提及其它可能的看法,指出其错误,并加以驳斥。
- 我是否有必要做出**让步?** 也许有必要加上一些限定词,如 usually, often, probably 等,这样反而使自己 的论点更加有力。

# 2

### 如何确定可辩论题

所谓议论文就是对一个有争议的论题展开辩论。也就是说,议论文所探讨的问题应该是尚无定论的问题,足以引起所谓仁者见仁、智者见智的争论。如:

What is the best way to slow population growth in China?

What should be done to prevent juvenile delinquency?

What is the more important consideration in selecting a major: finding a job or enjoying the subject?

Should college students take part-time jobs?

正因为议论文是就有争议的问题展开辩论,因此辩论的结果往往并不是找到对一个问题的完全肯定的答案,而是求得与读者更多的共识,或引起读者对问题的注意。相反,有一些问题因为是显而易见的事实,并不适合作为议论文的话题。如:

China is a country of the largest population in the world.

There are four seasons in a year.

还有一类问题涉及个人的偏好或信仰,也很难展开辩论。如:

I prefer hot food.

God must exist.

因此,在选择写作的题目时,你一定要注意区别哪些是可辩的问题,哪些是不可辩的问题。当选择了一个论题后,建议你从下面12个方面问一问自己。如果回答都是yes,那就表明你已经找到了一个可辩论题。

#### A Debatable Topic

- Is this an issue that has not been resolved or settled?
- Does this issue potentially inspire two or more views?
- Are you interested and engaged with this issue, and do you want to communicate with an audience about it?
- Can this issue inspire your audience and attract their attention?
- Do other people, besides you, perceive this as an issue?
- Is this issue significant enough to be worth your time?
- Is this a safe issue for you? Not too risky? Scary? Will you be willing to express your ideas?
- Will you be able to establish common ground with your audience on this issue, that is, a common set of terms, some common background and values?
- Can you get information and come up with convincing insights on this issue?
- Can you eventually get a clear and limited focus on this issue, even if it is a complicated one?
- Is it an enduring issue, or can you build perspective by linking it to an enduring issue?
- Can you predict some audience outcomes? (Will your audience be convinced? Hostile? Neutral? Attentive? Remember, any outcomes at all can be regarded as significant in argument.)

## 论题分类

3

议论文的论题大体可分为5类,这可以通过分析它们试图回答的问题来确定。一般说来,论题类型与文章的结构和所需要的论据密切相关。因此,了解论

题的基本类型及其与结构和论据的关系,将有利于从宏观上驾御议论文的写作。

#### 1) 事实论题 (Claims of Fact)

事实论题旨在回答如下问题:

- Did it happen?
- Is it true?
- Does it exist?
- Is it a fact?

例如:

The ozone layer (臭氧层) is becoming depleted.

The increasing population threatens the environment.

Men have more opportunities than women in our society.

此类论题的论证主要依靠事实性论据,包括事实、数据、例子、援引权威观点。归纳推理是论证这类问题的一个基本思路,即从对几个基本例证的讨论得出结论。例如:

Besides physical hazards and anxieties, competitive sports pose psychological dangers for children. Martin Rablovsky, a former sports editor for the *New York Times*, said that in all his years of watching young children play organized sports, he noticed very few of them smiling. "I've seen children enjoying a spontaneous prepractice *scrimmage* (混战) become somber and serious when the coach's whistle blows," Rablovsky said. "The spirit of play suddenly disappears, and sport becomes joblike." The primary goal of a professional athlete — winning — is not appropriate for children. Their goals should be having fun, learning, and being with friends. Although winning does add to the fun, too many adults lose sight of what matters and make winning the most important goal. Several studies have shown that when children are asked whether they would rather be *warming the bench* (当替补队员) on a winning team or playing regularly on a losing team, about 90 percent choose the latter.

在这一段论述里,作者运用了权威人士(《纽约时报》的体育编辑)的发言和调查数据来支持如下事实论题(即段首主题句): Besides physical hazards and anxieties, competitive sports pose psychological dangers for children.

#### 2) 定义论题 (Claims of Definition)

定义论题旨在回答如下问题:

- What is it?
- What does it mean?

- What is it like?
- How should it be classified?
- How should it be interpreted?
- How does its usual meaning change in a particular context?

例如:

A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstances, but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes.

Success consists of four simple things — to live a lot, to love a lot, to laugh a lot, and from it all, to learn a lot.

The primary purpose of a liberal education is to make one's mind a pleasant place in which to spend one's time.

定义论题的论证往往建立在权威观点、可靠资料、类比及例证之上。例如:

Love is something like the clouds that were in the sky before the sun came out. You cannot touch the clouds, you know; but you feel the rain and know how glad the flowers and the thirsty earth are to have it after a hot day. You cannot touch love either; but you feel the sweetness that it pours into everything. Without love you would not be happy or want to play.

通过一个形象的类比,作者生动地揭示了 love 的含意。值得提醒的是,定义论题通常不会成为一篇议论文的支配主题,而是出现在论证的开头或过程之中。对核心概念的定义往往是有效论证的基础。例如,要论证一部影片是否是黄色影片,作者有必要首先给"黄色"下一个定义。否则,论证将无法展开。

#### 3) 因果沦题 (Claims of Cause)

因果论题旨在回答如下问题:

- What caused it?
- Where did it come from?
- Why did it happen?
- What are the effects?
- What probably will be the results both on a short-term and a long-term basis? 例如:

The United States champions human rights in foreign countries to further its own economic self-interests.

The long-term effects of inadequate funding for AIDS research will be a disastrous worldwide epidemic.

Examinations exert a negative impact on education.