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杨凡英语学习丛书

# 议论文

• 杨凡 编著

ENGLISH

# 写作



👉 介绍文体结构 拓展写作思路

👉 提高语言水平 适用各类考试

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环球国际英语学校图书事业部 策划

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## 序 言

我与杨凡老师在环球雅思学校（环球国际英语学校）共事多年，其独特的语言教学法以及对英语理论和应试英语的理解，在全国堪称独树一帜。将他的教学理论和授课实践的精华撰写成书以帮助更多莘莘学子，一直是我们和他所教授的学生的夙愿。

谈杨凡学习法我想先介绍杨凡其人，许多人见过杨凡老师都觉得他有点“文弱书生”的感觉，其实“初见谈吐静如水，三句过后起波澜”是他教学最鲜明的特点。杨凡老师的才思敏捷和风趣幽默曾吸引过许多学生，他喜爱博览群书，这个特点体现在他的教学内容的精炼通俗上。多年相处，我觉得无论教学风格还是行事风格，用“以柔克刚”一词形容杨凡其人最为贴切。

今天，这套如此全面的英语学习丛书，可谓其为十年磨一剑的产物，尽现杨凡学习丛书的神机妙法。我真心代表环球雅思学校的全体师生员工向杨老师表示感谢。

看过本书的初稿，我注意到书中特别强调学习理论应与实践相结合，可以说既具有理论价值，也注重英语学习的实用性。这套丛书对于将要备考雅思、托福、大学英语四、六级和考研的学生们而言是一次难得的技法总结和提炼。杨凡在丛书中对写作方法的讲述，可谓是“让优者更优，令弱者变强”（Reinforce the Strong & Empower the Weak），相信对学生考试成绩的提高和英语水平的巩固都会有综合的绝佳帮助。

杨凡老师作为“全国环球雅思教师委员会”的主要发起人，一直积极推动将优秀教学成果转化为学术教材并向全国推广的活动。他致力于促进学生及教师的相互学术交流，及时沟通考试动态，随时总结发展应试英语学习法，不断超越自我，提升雅思教学水平，让全国广大学生得到优秀教师的精髓和真传。这些都确立了他在语言教学行业中的至高地位。愿杨凡老师和他的丛书可以成为广大学生的良师益友。

借此感谢广大师生多年来对环球雅思学校的信赖，使我们荣幸成为数十万学子人生脚下的前进大道。

环球雅思连锁学校  
总校校长 张永琪

# 前 言

## 如何写议论文

雅思考试中写作部分的时间是 60 分钟，要求写出至少共 400 字的两篇文章。其中一篇议论文要求至少写 250 字。托福考试中写作部分的时间是 30 分钟，要求写出一篇 250~300 字的议论文。研究生入学考试的议论文要求是 200 字。本书就是针对上面这些考试的要求而编写的。

议论文写作主要涉及结构，思路和语言三个方面。

### 一、结构

**同学们常犯的错误如下：**

1. 结构混乱，自由式写法，想到哪，写到哪；
2. 模式化严重，千篇一律。

本书在第一章中详细讲解了各种结构，帮助大家写出既结构清楚又形式多样的文章。

### 二、思路

**同学们常犯的错误如下：**

1. 没有话可说，写不够字数；
2. 车轱辘话来回说；
3. 过于简单，缺乏新颖和深度。

本书在第二章介绍了很多扩充思路的方法，并给出了很多考试常考题目的思路；在第四章分类提供了和考试常考话题相关的大量写作素材，大家仔细阅读，一定会大幅扩展写作思路。

### 三、语言

**同学们常犯的错误如下：**

1. 很多词不会；
2. 语法错误较多；
3. 写不出复杂的句子。

本书在第三章讲解了提高语言水平的方法；在第四章分类提供了和考试常考话题相关的大量写作素材，大家仔细阅读，一定会逐步提高语言水平。

本书主要是针对要写 250 字左右的英语作文的读者，同时对四、六级考试等其他考试以及英语写作爱好者也有帮助。

在本书编写过程中，我参考了一些关于英文写作的书籍，在此对相关作者表示感谢。我还要感谢我的夫人李铁戎，我的朋友魏玮对我的帮助和鼓励。

杨凡

2004 年 4 月北京

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# 第一章 结构

## 命题形式

从命题形式上划分，议论文分为辩论型题目、论说型题目和混合型题目三大类。

### 1 辩论型题目

辩论型题目的题干多是两个事物或两个观点，让你任选其一；或者是一个事物或一个观点，问你支持或反对。这类试题在考试中出现的频率最高。

#### 例 1

Some people think young children can have a better education in a boarding school far from home, while others claim that a day school or the home is a better one. What's your opinion? Give your reasons.

#### 例 2

Many pop and sports stars earn millions of dollars a year. On the other hand, most people in "ordinary" professions like nurses, doctors and teachers earn only a small fraction of the income of these "stars". What do you think about this phenomenon? Is it fair?

#### 例 3

Some people believe that children should engage in educational pursuits in their spare time, otherwise they are wasting their time. Do you agree or disagree?

### 2 论说型题目

论说型题目的题干多是提出一个现象，让你说明原因或给出解决方法等。这类试题在考试出现的频率较低。

#### 例 1

How should a student choose the future career, whose opinions and what kind of information he / she considers in making the decision? Give the reasons.

#### 例 2

It is generally acknowledged that families are now not as close as they used to be. Give

possible reasons.

例 3

It is generally acknowledged that families are now not as close as they used to be. Give your recommendations.

3 混合型题目

混合型题目的题干中包含两个及两个以上的问号或要求。

例 1

Traffic is developing rapidly all round the world at present. What are the traffic problems in your country? What causes these problems? Make some recommendations.

例 2

It is generally acknowledged that families are now not as close as they used to be. Give possible reasons and your recommendations.

例 3

There have been many technological developments in the 20th century, for example, computers and electric power. Choose either of them, describe the changes it has brought about and discuss whether all the changes are positive.

辩论型题目

1 五段论式写法

五段论式写法并非指文章一定要有五段，它只是一个统称，可以有不同的篇章结构，这样可以避免千篇一律。

第一种结构

- 第一段：提出观点
- 第二段：理由段 1
- 第三段：理由段 2
- 第四段：理由段 3
- 第五段：结尾段

例 1

Topic

You have enough money to purchase either a house or a business. Which would you choose to buy? Give specific reasons to explain your choice.

**Sample** If I had enough money to buy either a house or a business, I'd buy a house. A business may succeed or fail. It's also possible I might change my mind about what I wanted to do in business. However, a home is a lifetime gift to myself.

Right now I'm in small apartment, with barely enough room for everything. All my furniture and things I've accumulated since I left college barely fit. I have almost no closet space left. This means my clothes are always wrinkled because they're crushed together. I don't have any place to put my cleaning supplies, nor room for more than one set of sheets and towels. A new house would mean a lot more room for all these things.

I love having plants around. It's very healthy for the air inside and it's cheerful to have living things growing in a room. I'd like to have a garden instead. That way I could grow a lot of different kinds of plants and flowers, and I could have a vegetable garden in the summer.

Besides having a garden, I'd like to have a backyard with lots of trees and a small fountain in the corner. I love watching birds and listening to them sing. On the windowsill of my apartment, I put out bird seed every morning. In the hot weather, I put out a shallow tin plate with water in it for birds. The trees and the fountain in my backyard would give me pleasure, but they'd really be for the birds. The trees would give them a place to nest, and the fountain would be a source of fresh water when it's hot.

Can you picture my dream house? A business would only give me money. A house would give me some place special to be myself.

## 例 2

### Topic

Some people say that exploration of outer space has many advantages; other people feel that it is a waste of money and other resources. Which view do you agree with? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

### Sample

With the development of outer space exploration, many people begin to doubt whether the endeavor is worthwhile. It is true that some money and other resources must be spent in this area, but in my opinion, human beings should continue the adventure because it can add to our knowledge, acquire new resources, and even find places where human beings can live.

To begin with, the exploration of outer space will add to our knowledge about the universe as well as about the earth. Although human beings have been living on the earth for thousands of years, we know very little about it. For example, we are not even sure about how the earth came into being, why the dinosaurs disappeared altogether from the face of the earth, and

whether there is life on other planets. The attempt to explore outer space will certainly help us answer all these questions and bring us a great many benefits.

In addition, the exploration of outer space may help mitigate the energy crisis. As we all know, our oil, coal, and other conventional fuels will be exhausted in the near future. Although the scientists are looking for alternatives on the earth, such as nuclear power, we may launch spacecraft to the moon or other planets, where natural resources might be abundant and untapped.

Last but not least, the exploration of outer space may find new habitation for human beings. Our earth is becoming more and more uninhabitable because of the population explosion. Although we have tried various means to relieve the burden of overpopulation, such as the building of skyscrapers and the practice of birth control, but the problem is getting increasingly serious. The best way, I think, is to turn our eyes to outer space. Some scientists are already working on the possible human migration to another planet, say, the Mars.

Since space exploration has so many important advantages, there is no reason for any objection to it. Those who only see the financial and material resources used for this undertaking are near-sighted. Would they leave the earth in a state of overcrowding, energy shortage, and severe pollution? Would they remain ignorant of the earth upon which human beings depend for survival? If not, they should change their position and support the scheme for space exploration.

第二种结构

- 第一段：提出观点
- 第二段：理由段 1
- 第三段：理由段 2
- 第四段：让步段
- 第五段：结尾段

例 1

Topic

Some people think the media should report more good news. What is your opinion?

Sample

Some people think that life would be better if the media reported more good news. However, I do not agree with this point of view.

Firstly, it is important to remember that the media's reports reflecting the realities at the world. Thus, if the world is in a terrible state then newspapers, radio, and TV will report this information to the public. Perhaps if there were happier things to report then the news would

have a rosier complexion. Thus, to some extent, it is not the news that can make the world happier but the world that can make happier news. For example, by exchanging e-mails with an American pen friend, I have how to design my own webpage; by exchanging e-mails with an American pen friend, I have how to design my own webpage.

Secondly, it is necessary to consider why more bad news is chosen to be reported than good news. Newspapers are not only a source of information, they are also a commodity. This is to say, news editors must decide to report things that will attract the consumer's attention. Thus, it seems that bad news dominates the headlines because there is a strong market demand for it. In a perverse way people seem to like and to be happy when they read about the miseries of others.

On the other hand, some people feel the media does not only reflect the state of the world, rather the media has a hand in shaping it. If the media reported more hopeful and inspiring stories, then their readers would be positively affected. However, as mentioned above, people appear to take pleasure in reading about doom and gloom. Moreover, an excess of good news might make the general public overly optimistic about a sometimes brutal world.

In conclusion, it is vital to remember that news is drawn from reality and that the public tends to be drawn to awful news. Thus, reporting more good news will not change reality nor will it necessarily change people's news interests.

## 例 2

## Topic

Some people like different friends. Others like similar friends. Compare the advantages of these two kinds of friends. Which kind of friends do you prefer? Explain why.

## Sample

Which kind of friends is more desirable, <sup>值得拥有的 / 有利的</sup> different friends or similar friends? Since people's criterion for friendship differs, they may never agree on the above issue. Personally, I have made friends with people from all walks of life, and these different friendships are such a precious treasure of mine.

In the first place, a mixture of friends can bring us many practical benefits, as the saying goes, "A friend in need is a friend indeed." Since we all need to move on in life, we need new friends to lead us to new adventures, new career opportunities and new life. In fact, most of us have to make new friends when we leave school and find employment. Besides, different friends can help us with the different difficulties that we encounter <sup>遭遇, 遇到</sup> in life. At the risk of sounding cold, different friends can also help us with financial problems and the friend in a foreign country might be able to arrange cheap accommodation for a holiday.

In the second place, contact with different friends gives a person a broad outlook to life. As the Chinese sage Confucious put it, "When three persons walk together, one of them can surely be

my teacher. "Since we all have our weaknesses, the strengths of different friends can always complement each other. For example, from a friend who majors in computer, I have learned how to design my own webpage; by exchanging e-mails with an American pen-friend, I have greatly improved my English writing. In addition, different friends can help me to enjoy a variety of interests, and we can always attract each other with our different hobbies, different ideas and different experiences. I feel that I can always find things to learn from my various friends.

Admittedly, common sense tells us that the idea of having similar friends is not without advantages. We can feel a sense of strength when we have a group of friends who share our opinions. A person with a purpose in life—such as an artist or a politician—may feel a special need to surround himself or herself with people who stick to the same cause. It seems to me that introvert people tend to enjoy similar friends because they fear the potential risks of arguments and conflicts among different friends.

All in all, although "birds of a feather flock together," I would like to fly with "birds" of different feathers, which would certainly add to the color of my life.

第三种结构

- 第一段：提出观点
- 第二段：理由段 1
- 第三段：理由段 2
- 第四段：结尾段

例 1

**Topic**

Some people learn best when a classroom lesson is presented in an entertaining, enjoyable way. Other people learn best when a lesson is presented in a serious, formal way. Which of these two ways of learning do you prefer? Give reasons to support your answer.

**Sample**

Attending lectures is very essential for students whose ability of independent study is not fully established. Consequently their progress is often based on the process of classroom importation. The two different kinds of style, respectively speaking, the serious way and the entertaining way, assume to produce different results, which can sharply be discerned by comparing the two different educational systems of the Europe and of the USA. Personally I vote for the latter, even though I have been taught in the former system from the very beginning of my education.

The disadvantage of the serious way of learning is found mainly in that students frequently fail to participate in the class activity. The teacher dominates the 45-minute period and the

students are refrained from airing their opinions no matter whether they agree or disagree with what the teacher says. In this case, standing up and ringing one's view forward and therefore breaking the quiet atmosphere require a great deal of courage and, sometimes, along time premeditation. Even though he does stand up, all these will significantly weaken the effect, and for good reason: the extreme constraint prevents him from expressing his opinion. Furthermore, students are expected to learn only what the teacher tells them. They have little chance to take advantage of others' ideas.

Such defects as mentioned above can be prevented by the other way of classroom learning.

The class organized in an enjoyable atmosphere usually proved students more than what they have expected. A joke may inspire students' interest and enthusiasm and then what they learn give them a deeper impression. A drastic debate among students will prompt them to learn from the others. In this kind of class they often find out that they have motivated by the pleasure of study. I have an American teacher in whose class I have gained so much. He differs from the image of teacher in my mind enormously in many aspects. What impressed me most is his humor. His satiric remarks are invariably infectious. For the first time I found the history is not at all boring. In laughter, not only do I learn the knowledge in books but I also gain some spiritual things brought about by his characteristics and personality.

A light heart is always helpful.

## 例 2

### Topic

Some people think studying in a university is worthwhile only because you can get a degree. Do you agree or disagree with the statement? Give specific reasons to support your answer.

### Sample

University as a significant cultural force has brought itself to wide recognition and undeniable high social status. Therefore, studying in a university considered one of the most important and most valuable experiences in one's life and his academic performance in university will significantly set his future. In our society, the most commonly recognized standard of a student's academic achievement is the degree. A good degree usually means a decent and well-paid job. Consequently, some people regard the degree as the only thing valuable while studying in college. Admittedly, the degree is essential for students who want a prosperous future, but it is by no means the only opportunity university grants us.

First of all, the university provides us with an enjoyable atmosphere of study and of other activities. Associating with different people on computers, discussing with your professor over a sensitive topic and reading in the quiet library can strongly shape your inclination, mature your thoughts, widen your horizon, and enrich your personality. For students who consider the university as a place to enhance their standard of appreciation and taste, and to receive



education in all aspects, the university offers them more than degrees—it will be an all-round reward.

Although, it is said that the higher the degree, the better the job, it is not always absolutely true: many great men made their startling contribution without a good degree or even without a good school record. For example, Einstein got many poor grades in college and sometimes he even thought the exams as “intolerable”. But he turned out to be one of the most brilliant scientific giant in history. The truth is that his university career and the new ideas he contacted with in college gave rise to his profound insight of the world and then the theory of relativity was born. So we can see clearly that degree is not everything.

So as I see it, though the degree plays an important role in one's future career, it will by no means dominate one's life. Our world is a varied one, so are the roads leading to prominence. Universities furnish a variety of opportunities for students; degree is only one of them. What you have learned in university is more essential, for it is your real asset. Seize every opportunity and take full advantage of what the university provides, then there can be brilliant future.

### 例 3

#### Topic

In most elementary and high schools in the United States, the average class size is 25 to 30 students. In some countries, schools have an average class size of more than 60 students. In your opinion, what would be the ideal class size? Explain why.

#### Sample

Which kind of class size is better? In the United States, a typical class in most elementary and high schools has 25 to 30 students, while in some other countries the average class size can amount to more than 60 students. As far as I am concerned, a class of about 20 students is ideal.

In the first place, the teacher can satisfy the demands of all the students in a small class. As there are only about 20 students in the class, it will not be long before the teacher comes to know his or her students well enough. The teacher can get to know the abilities and problems of each student, which makes it easy for the teacher to handle the class. Consequently, every question can be answered; every request can be satisfied, and every bit of talent can be tapped.

In the second place, teaching in a small class can be more effective than in a bigger one. The main reason, I suppose, is that there are more opportunities of communication between the teacher and the students in a small class. For example, the teacher can ask more questions and the students have more chances to answer questions. If necessary, a class can be