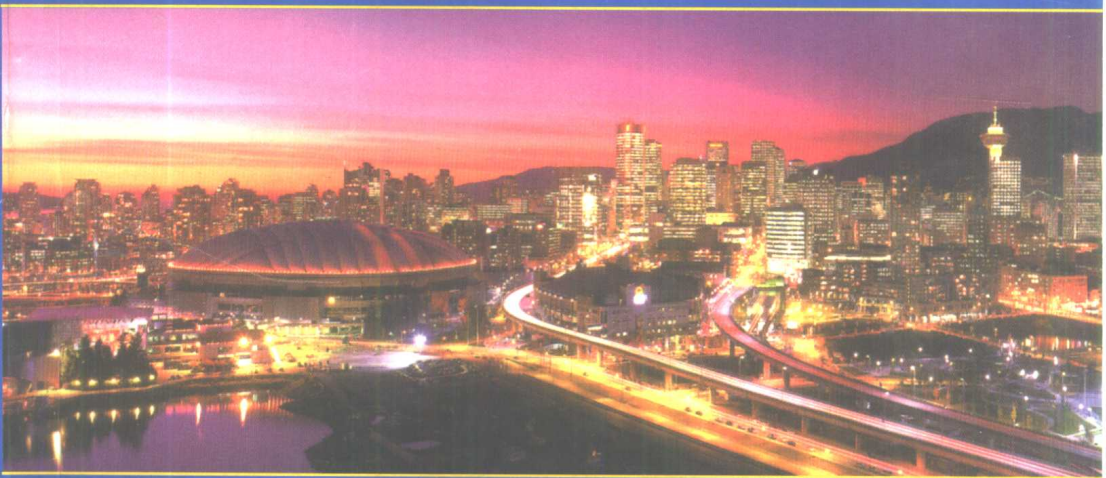




TOEFL考试系列用书

TOEFL

写作考前冲刺



梁蝶影 编著

世界知识出版社

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前言

TOEFL 在计算机化考试实施后,作文部分除本身有六分制的评分外,还计算在总分里面。因此,作文分数的高低直接影响 TOEFL 成绩的高低,突破作文考试自然成为势在必行的事。要获得高分,必须首先知道满分的要求。本书就 TOEFL 写作的评分标准细则逐一给予突破指导。只要好好地吸收书中“秘籍”,并在考试前多练习 TOEFL 考试中心发放的作文练习题,获取高分并非难事。

在此谨祝亲爱的读者考试顺利,早日实现你们留学深造的美好愿望。这就是我写这本考前冲刺的目的所在。

梁蝶影

2000 年 8 月于温哥华

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英语论文写作

第一章

§ 1 论文结构与各部分功能

按照北美洲学校的要求,学生论文多为五段文(five paragraph essay):一段开头(introduction),三段正文(body),一段结尾(conclusion)。每段有各自的功能,互相不能取代,但各自都有内在的联系,共同构成一个整体(a unified essay)。

在五段文(five paragraph essay)里,开头段(introductory paragraph)包括(a)开场白(opening sentences)与(b)命题(thesis statement)。开场白的作用是提供一些与命题密切相关的背景资料,并且吸引读者;命题则表述文章要进行论述的事物或要论证的观点,即文章的中心思想。

正文三段(body paragraphs)从三个不同的角度去支持命题,论证命题的正确性。各段包括(a)主旨句(topic sentence)和(b)支持性细节(supporting details)。主旨句表达全段的中心思想,通常是支持文章命题的理由之一。支持性细节是支持主旨句的例子、解释等,目的是帮助读者理解主旨句的含义。正文写三段意味着文章的命题得到三大理由的支持。这样命题的观点就避免了不够充分之嫌了。

结束段(concluding paragraph)包括(a)结束语(closing statement)与(b)结论句(concluding sentence)。结束语烘托文章结束的气氛;结论句表达作者经过全文论述后得出的最终结论,这一结论高度地概括了作者对自己论述的问题的看法,这一看法是命题的升华。

下面我们以一篇 TOEFL 作文为例,从实例中领略文章的结构和各部分功能。

例：People are never satisfied with what they have; they always want something more or something different. Use specific reasons and examples to support whether you agree or disagree with the above statement.

Satisfaction is only a temporary feeling of being content, for human desire, stimulated by both physical and mental needs, connects with changes in our world, our society and ourselves. It is true that people are never satisfied with what they have in the long run and that they always want something more or something different. **This unsatisfactory perception, together with the desire for something more or different, exists perpetually for three major reasons.**

First, **the continuous emergence of new products constantly motivates people's desire to get things new and different for better.** For example, people replace their computers with new ones that are quicker in speed and more in functions long before their machines get worn-out. This happens as a result of the rapid development of science and technology that enables improved computers and softwares to come out into the market at a much faster speed than the speed for a computer to get old.

Second, **people's improvement in financial status invites their dissatisfaction with what they have.** A good example of this is the purchase of a newer house on a better location with a nicer view when one has saved enough down payment or when one gets a raise knowing that paying back a mortgage is not a problem.

Finally, **the vanity to keep up with neighbors and friends also sparks off people's dissatisfaction with what they have.** A car is originally meant to be a means of transportation. However, there are people who trade in their nice cars for a Benz, BMW, Volvo or a

Luxury simply because their friends or neighbors drive these makes.

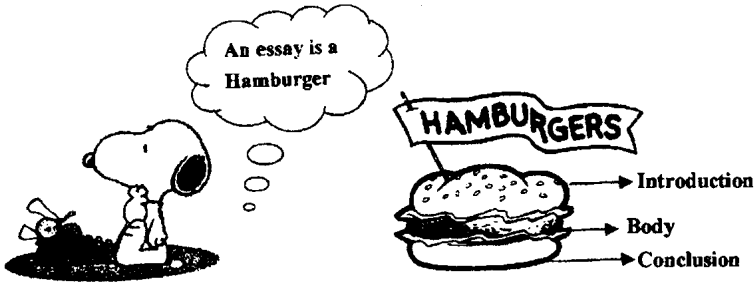
Superficially, people's endless discontent with what they have sounds greedy and unpleasant, but it is, in fact, **this discontent of our humans' that pushes our society to continuously create things new and different to meet people's desire.**

(306 words)

在上面的文章里,开头段中没有划线的部分是开场白,它带出话题,并引向命题;划线部分是文章的命题,它表达作者的观点以及文章要论证的事物和要论述的方面。正文部分划线的句子是各段的主旨句,分别表达各段的大意,没有划线的部分是支持性细节,是支持主旨句的例子与说明。结尾段里没有划线的句子是结束语,它通过呼应命题、重述主题“people's discontent with what they have”来暗示文章即将结束,最后一句划线的句子是文章的最终结论句,它把人类的不知足升华为推动社会创造力的一种动力。

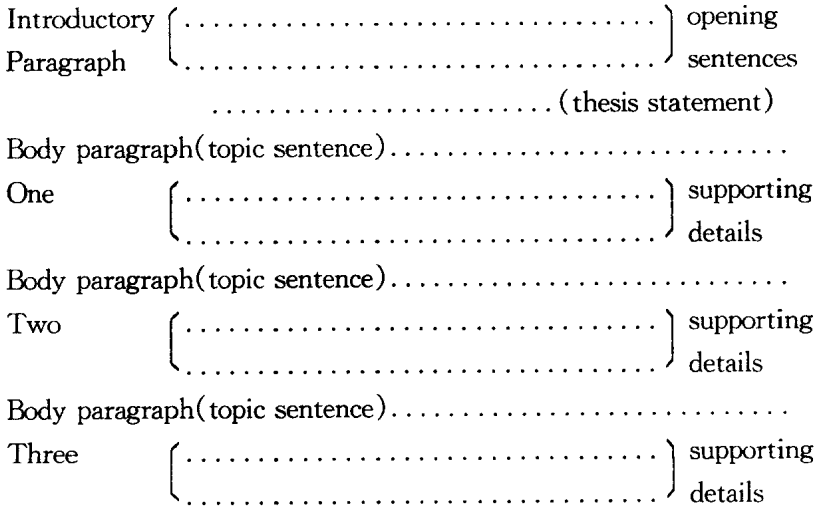
论文结构与各部分功能一览表

段落	结构	功能
开头段	(a) 开场白	(a) 提供背景资料 (b) 吸引读者
	(b) 命题句	(a) 表达文章的中心思想(即作者的观点) (b) 设正文要论述的方面
正文一段	(a) 主旨句	* 表达本段的中心思想,(即支持命题的理由之一)
正文二段	(b) 支持性细节	* 用例子支持主旨句
正文三段	同上	支持命题的理由之二
	同上	支持命题的理由之三
结尾段	(a) 结束语	* 烘托文章结束的气氛
	(b) 结论句	* 提出最终性结论



在大多数的论文里,命题句(thesis statement)为开头段的最后一句,正文各段的主旨句(topic sentence)为正文各段开头的最后一句,结论句(concluding sentence)为结尾段的最后一句。这些关键的句子可以看成是我们写论文时组织文章内容的分隔标志(idea organizers)。这样,论文的组织结构就如下图所示:

Essay Organization



Concluding Paragraph { } closing sentences
..... (concluding sentence)

考试时,用上面这种格式构筑文章框架、组织论文既容易掌握又十分保险,至少在文章组织结构方面不会失分。

§ 2 开头段 (Introduction)

论文的开头段 (introductory paragraph) 包括开场白的句子 (opening sentences) 与命题 (thesis statement) 两部分。开场白的作用除了吸引读者外,更重要的是引出命题,为命题的出现铺路。因此,开场白的句子都是一些以命题为核心的话语,这些话语让命题在不知不觉中自然显现,不会令读者有唐突的感觉。

一、开场白的落笔方法

开场白的落笔多姿多采,在这里介绍几款最适合 TOEFL 作文考试使用的方法。

1. 对文章的主题事物做两三句一般性陈述,缩小范围,自然过渡到命题 (thesis)。

例: People should read only those books that are about real events, real people, and established facts. Use specific reasons and details to support whether you agree or disagree with the above statement.

文章的开场白:

Books can be factual about real events, real people and established facts like magazines, textbooks and reference books. Books can also be imaginative about imaginary events, imaginary people and made-up facts like novels, poetry selections and play scripts. **Whatever type a book belongs to, factual or imaginary, a well-written book benefits the reader from a different angle; therefore, people should read books of both types.**

最后一句划线的句子是文章的命题。该命题讨论的主题事物是书,所以开场白就书的分类说了两句话,这两句话与命题要表达的观点(两类书都要看)紧密相联。因此,开场白的句子一完,命题即已出现。

2. 对文章要论述的重要概念下定义。

例: People seldom forget special gifts or presents that they have received. Give specific reasons and examples to explain why.

文章的开场白:

Gifts, big or small, expensive or inexpensive, are things people give someone else as a token of gratitude, celebration, love or friendship. Special gifts are gifts that people rarely give out or receive on a particular occasion. Just because of rareness, special gifts are enriched with the feeling from the giver. **The decision to give a special gift, the efforts made in finding one coupled with the rareness of the present makes a special gift deeply remembered.**

划线句子是命题句。文章讨论的主题事物是特别礼物,什么礼物为特别礼物呢?作者在开头先给它下个定义,这样便于读者理解。

3. 以发问形式开头。

例: What is one of the most important decisions you have made? Why do you consider this decision important? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

文章的开场白:

What is an important decision? An important decision is a decision that influences us, especially our life to a great extent. An important decision can be either right or wrong. **Its importance lies in its impact on such great matters as our career, our way of life and our success in the society.**

4. 先摆出反面的观点,然后猛然回身指出这个观点是错误的。

例: People are never too old to attend college or university. Use specific reasons and examples to support whether you agree or disagree with the above statement.

文章的开场白:

People who are getting old are approaching to the end of life, so they are generally considered to be too old to attend college or university. However, this is not true. In fact, people are never too old to learn. **Attending college or university still benefit the old in a number of ways.**

二、命题的写法

首先,我们要分清的是论文的命题是作者的观点(opinion),而不是事实(fact)。对于观点,我们可以自由发表议论和进行论述。

而事实则是客观存在或为大家所接受承认的事情或现象。事实是写作文时,我们常常用来引证我们看法的正确性的支持性材料。

【例】

- (a) Eating at restaurants is enjoyable. (观点)
- (b) Many people eat at restaurants at weekends. (事实)
- (c) Physical exercises should not be a required program at school. (观点)
- (d) Physical exercises are currently required at all schools. (事实)
- (e) Only people who earn a lot of money are successful. (观点)
- (f) People who earn a lot of money are not poor. (事实)

命题是一句完整的句子,它通常位于开头段的末句。完整的命题包括三部分:

- (1) 文章要论述的事物(subject matter);
- (2) 文章的中心思想(central idea,亦即作者对要论述的事物所持的看法);
- (3) 文章正文要论证的方面(points to be discussed in the body)。即: Thesis = Subject matter + Central idea + Points in body

如果用句子结构来表现上面的公式的话,

Subject matter = subject

Central idea = verb + object

Points in body = modifier

即: Thesis = Subject + Verb + Object + Modifier

修饰语在此起到缩小文章论述范围的作用(narrow down the scope of the essay),将正文要论述的内容具体化,项目化。那么此修饰语如何衔接句子呢?

方法有多种:

- (1) 把要论述的方面浓缩成名词或名词短语,用介语连接上

句子。

【例】

Open mind means growth in knowledge, friendship and personal potentiality.

有了修饰语,这个命题暗示了文章的正文将会有三段,一段论述知识的长进,一段论述友谊的增加,一段论述个人潜能的加强。

【又如】

Pursuit of freedom involves changes in life style, relationship with people close and employment pattern.

(2) 这些浓缩了的名词或名词短语,也可以用 such as, particularly, especially, including 等装上句子。

【例】

Open mind means growth, such as growth in knowledge, friendship and personal potentiality.

Pursuit of freedom involves changes, such as changes in lifestyle, relationship with people close and employment pattern.

Open mind means growth, especially growth in knowledge, friendship and personal potentiality.

Pursuit of freedom involves changes, particularly changes in lifestyle, relationship with people close and employment pattern.

(3) 这些浓缩的名词或名词短语,也可以作为解释性的成分跟在冒号之后,冒号之前是一个概括性名词或名词词组。

【例】

Open mind means growth in three major aspects: knowledge, friendship and personal potentiality.

概括性名词词组是“three major aspects”。

Pursuit of freedom involves three changes: lifestyle, relationship with people close, and employment pattern.

概括性名词词组是“three changes”。