GRE作文应考系列

A Course of GRE Writing GRE作文应试数程

钟良明 编著



湖南人民出版社

GRE作文应考系列 A Course of GRE Writing

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本书宗旨

从 2002 年 10 月 1 日开始, GRE (Graduate Record Examination [美国] 研究生入学考试) 开始执行改革方案: GRE 作文考试进入 GRE 综合考试 (General Test), 成为必考项目。其后, GRE 综合考试由新的三大部分组成: 词汇和阅读、数学、写作 (verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing sections)。改革后, 作文考试考题不变, 考试时间仍为 75 分钟, 判分仍为 7 级 (0 至 6 分, 增分档次为 0.5)。

GRE 主办者常年在网上公布有 250 道话题(相当于传统的作文题)。考试时,考题随机选自这一试题库。本书按内容(题材)对这些话题进行分类(力求每道题代表一类题材),然后择其 50 余道,配以中国应试者的习作,编入本书,并按 GRE 考试的评分标准,对每篇习作判分,评论其短长。最后在改写基础上形成范文,供学习者参照。

本书的重点是按 GRE 作文考试的标准和规范来剖析中国应试者常犯的毛病,这些毛病被分门别类组成一个体系,再在此基础上配合话题进行剖析和讲解,基本上覆盖了写作训练的全部内容,所以本书也是一部写作教程。故名。

GRE 的话题, 历年会有变化, 本书每年改版一次, 以适应其变化。但本书不是跟着变化了的"题目"作更改, 而是牢牢掌握上述考试的标准和规范——它们是相对稳定的。

成为必考项目前,中国 GRE 应试者(包括得"满分"或近乎满分者)很少申请参加 写作考试。理由当然不言而喻:难度较大,得高分不易。据行内人士估计,前几年参考 者,得分在 0 至 2 分之间;3 分已属少见。而丢分的原因,思想内容的因素甚至大于语言 的因素。这就为本书的重心提供了依据。即:在中国学生的应试习作中,语言错误也许最 刺眼,但本书的重点不是语言问题,而是写作的重大方针和原则,亦即 GRE 写作考试十分注重的大学本科学生应有的逻辑思维能力,和开动大脑机器的能力,或曰:产生好思想的能力,和将思想组织好的能力。

GRE 作文考题本身,以及阅卷人对试卷的要求,都以思想内容的深度和广度著称。中国大学生在这方面普遍处于弱势,如知识面狭窄,缺乏逻辑常识,思路不开阔,思想简单、幼稚(成人思想婴儿化),以及构思当中鲜有新意。由于平日里这一弱势并没有太多严肃的机会被暴露、被检验,所以在写作当中被暴露时,情节往往十分严重。对此,本书的每一页都在谈论和强调;对每一篇学生习作的重写,都旨在这一方面作出示范。

写作的基本知识和技巧,由于谈论起来枯燥乏味,学生们往往忽视。本书将这些知识和技巧结合进学生的习作,有针对性地进行分析和讲解,以消除令人难以接受的空谈。本

书还将修辞的一般常识和技巧也包括了进去,因为 GRE 作文考试对此有要求。

写作能力是非常重要的能力。但在中国当前各种考试中,对写作的要求几乎为零。不是无要求,而是无法检查。原因是,当代考试(尤其是英语过级考试、研究生人学英语考试)是千百万人齐上阵的考试,阅卷需要机械化。但以检查语言、思想综合能力为宗旨的写作考试,绝不适宜于机械化阅卷。君不见,一篇作文,仅看文前三、两个句子,就需判分了事(这些机器人非如此不能完成任务),该是何等无效、无益啊!

凡属无力、无效检查的,不少人就不好好学、不好好练。这样,在当代中国,英语写作能力几成屠龙之技。作为教了几十年英语写作的英语教师,本书作者每每感慨系之:感交上来的文章惨不忍睹,叹大学生思想婴儿化。

由于辅导自家孩子考试,发觉 GRE 写作较好地体现了写作训练的真谛(重语言、重思想、重两者的结合),遂皆大欢喜地集成此书。古人云:它山之石,可以为错(《诗经·小雅·鹤鸣》)(意为"借助异国经验,可以纠正本国、本地的不当"尔)。我愿借大西洋彼岸这一方小石,稍稍刺激一处不小的顽症。

二 如何使用这本书

本书分四部分。

应试在即,时间有限者可突出学习第一部分(GRE 作文模式及其应对)。作文基础差(缺乏常识)、希望在此有所提高者,可进一步学习第三部分(作文基本知识和技巧)。作文有基础、希望获得高分者,可在第四部分(修辞)下点工夫。无论那种情况,都得对第二部分(GRE 对思辨能力的要求)的内容予以充分关注。

关于体例,对"应试作文中译"与"范文中译"两部分,有必要予以特别说明。

我曾对用英语写作学士和硕士毕业论文的英语专业学生说过:将你们写的东西译成中文,然后好好读一遍,如果你对它不脸红,就算写好了(学生们有一错觉:用英语写作,可以降低思想标准。)

出于同一原理,本书第一部分的应试作文(作者都是英语"过了级"的大学生)被译成中文,以令其毛病一目了然,以令"同病相怜"者们"痛定思痛"后有所重视。

将范文用中文表现,则出自另一理由:本书范文是按 GRE 作文考试严格要求表达的"正常"思想,已经相当复杂,但所使用的词汇,被控制在 7000 字左右,即理、工科"大学英语"教学大纲的词汇范围。用尽可能简单的词汇表达正常的思想,是本书另一宗旨。(本书的姐妹篇《中学双语[汉英] GRE 话题作文》,则用 2000 左右英语词汇表达正常的思想。)这有利于说明一个问题:学好英语不仅仅在于扩大词汇量,也在于如何"彻底"学好两三千英语词汇。学好的重大标志,是将它们用地道,用活。这对学习用英语写作的人们尤其重要。

由于范文(连同作文题)在书中被翻译成了中文,所以英文作文题被统一安排出现在书前,以利学习者独立审读;或干脆自己将文章写一遍,然后再去阅读有关的知识和范文。GRE作文考试考的全是议论文(兼有"记叙"的因素),所以本书讲的全是它。学习者千万不可小看议论文,因为它是"现实世界"的文体,是每一位需为生计呕心沥血的现

代人的利器。而其他文种——散文、诗歌、小说之类——在当代中国,要么是专业人士谋生的手段,要么是"虚拟世界"的消遣。在中国高考之类的场合,你可以发一通李清照般的千古哀怨,可因其文采而获"状元作文"的殊荣。但 GRE 作文是务实社会的务实文体。文采,倘若不具备思想,表现出辩才,就用得上中国一句俗话:文采多少钱一斤?

提高写作能力,毕竟不是一朝一夕的事情,所以作者对有志于 GRE 写作考试的人们有如下建议:

- 1. 早做准备。对大学生来说,在大学一年级就可准备;本书所涉及的内容,也宜在较长时间内消化和运用。
- 2. 提高写作能力的主要手段是阅读,尤其是以写作为宗旨的阅读(writing-oriented reading)。由于 GRE 考试是美国研究生入学考试,话题的内容只能是以美国的社会和文化为背景,所以,若能在较长时间内坚持读一点原文的美国报刊杂志,效果将更好。

最后是一个技术性问题。本书话题来自 GRE 现行题库,建议学习者从根本上下工夫,而不要硬记范文。因为有经验的人告诫说:即使考试时碰上了某道题,也不应照抄范文,因为一旦有若干人写出大体相同的文章,它们都将被按无效试卷处置。也因为这个原因,本书不愿覆盖更多的话题,因为那样对应试者并没有好处。

钟良明 2002年8月于北方交通大学

GRE 作文考试的标准和规范

一 GRE 作文题源

GRE 考试中心经营有巨大的作文题库,并常年将一部分话题(issue topics 和 argument topics 各 125 道左右)公布在网上。考试时,作文题都来源于此。历年网页更新,这些题目有所变化。但重复也是有的。以 2002 年 9 月 10 日以前公布的内容为例,它与2001公布的题目完全相同。(GRE 作文考试举办时间不长,目前题库有限;今后必将逐年扩大。)

尽管预先在网上公布了作文考题,但人们"作弊"(如猜题)的可能性极少,因为猜中的机率不大(2/250),除非你将250道题都认真做一遍。不过,那样一来,你从中获得的提高,确也可保障获得较好的成绩了。

作文题库的文件名和网址分别为:

The Pool of Issue Topics (http://www.gre.org/issuetop.html)

The Pool of Argument Topics (http://www.gre.org/argutop. html)

二 GRE 作文考试的判分

GRE 作文考试最好成绩为 6 分。由于有 0 分的设置,所以实际上是按 7 级记分。用语言表达,前 6 个类别是: "杰出"(outstanding)(6 分), "强有力"(strong)(5 分), "合格"(adequate)(4 分), "有局限"(limited)(3 分), "有严重错误"(seriously flawed)(2 分), "完全不符合要求"(fundamentally deficient)(1 分)。意思是说,文章对考题中的观点(议论)分别作出了杰出、强有力、合格、有局限、有严重错误、完全不符合要求的回应(response)。

得 0 分的情形有:文章不可辨认、离题、用非英语写就,或仅仅抄写了题目,或用非文字(符号、漫画,等等)表达。这些情形中,离题最常见,所以特别值得应试者警惕。本书用较大篇幅讲解这一致命错误,就出于这一考虑。

三 GRE 作文的篇幅

GRE 考试中心公布的范文,凡获高分者,篇幅为 450~630 单词。

但篇幅并非关键。如公布的一份就 argument topic 作文的 5 分试卷,仅 250 单词。这

两类话题作文,尽管写作时间有长有短(分别为 45 分钟和 30 分钟),但两者的篇幅并非时间短的篇幅也一定短。如公布的两份分别就 issue topic 和 argument topic 作文的样卷,前者反而只有 529 个单词,后者却有 602 个单词。建议:

- 1. 就 issue topic 和 argument topic 作文时,时间的差异还是应该考虑。这样,前者可为 450~600 英语单词,后者 350~500 即可。
- 2. 本书收入的应试习作中,一方面篇幅普遍不够,另一方面"凑字数"的现象十分严重。可见普遍担心因篇幅不够而被扣分,但没有顾及因"凑字数"而带来更加严重的后果:空洞无物、文字累赘,只会丢分更多。有关的劝告是: 既然 250 单词一篇作文能得 5分,可见"字数"并不是一个关键问题; 既然如此,我们为什么不去努力学习写短小但内容充实的文章呢? 本书有些范文在 400 单词上下,就旨在作出示范。

四 GRE 作文考试的判卷和评分

GRE 作文考试的标准和规范,最生动、最具体地体现在 GRE 作文阅卷人的评语和判分里。

GRE 考试中心常年公布有 12 份被判分的样卷及阅卷人对它们的评语。由于版权的缘故,它们不能进入本书,只能建议同学们上网查阅。网址:

观点话题样卷: http://www.gre.org/samissua.html

议论话题样卷: http://www.gre.org/samargua.html

我们在这里能做的,是对每份被判分的样卷及阅卷人对它们的评语作出介绍和评论(关键部分引出原文)。

以下六份被评阅的试卷的作文题 (issue topic) 为:

In our time, specialists of all kinds are highly over-rated. We need more generalists—people who can provide broad perspectives.

1. 对一份 6 分作文的评语

GRE 阅卷人评语摘要:

This outstanding response displays insightful analysis, meticulous development, impressive vocabulary and a mastery of the elements of effective writing... The essay is carefully constructed throughout... Although other "6" responses may not be as eloquent as this essay, they nevertheless all display the test taker's ability to articulate complex ideas effectively and precisely.

本文(625 单词)是 GRE 作文考试中最优秀的一类作文,可帮助中国应试者明了该 考试的标准和规范。比如,本文具备了"杰出"类作文的三个条件:

首先,开门见山对原观点作出全面回应,并将此回应作为自己的论点。这要归因为作者有效而成功的审题:原观点过分强调 generalists,对 specialists有明显的贬低。本文在纠正这一片面的基础上立论,说明两类人各自的重要性,体现了(对原论点的)批判精神。从论述看,作者的知识面也很广。广博的知识,加上批判精神,这便很可能带来真知灼见。

其次,作者在写作方面训练有素。这充分体现于文章严谨的结构:在开篇处提出论点,其后步步深入进行论述(分析)(对比下面 5 分作文样卷在这一方面的失误),结尾处作出归纳和结论。每段都有主题句和结论句。作者的语言规范,词汇丰富,体现了良好的语言能力。

最后,作者在修辞方面也有一定修养,如文中几处比喻和夸张就运用得很熟练。

2. 对一份 5 分作文的评语

本文(470单词)突出的优点是:

- 1. 开门见山对原观点作出全面回应(该回应刚好又是作者自己的论点);论点富有批判性:指出原论点的两个方面都有片面性——专门人才并非被"过分"强调,通才虽然重要,但不应因此抹杀专门人才的重要性。开篇是否成功,往往取决于审题。本文在开篇提出论点时表现出了审题的技巧和成功。在提供实例(第二段)时,再次体现了审题的缜密:原论点中对专门人才有贬损,本文作者于是在说明两类人才都重要的同时,又略偏向于专门人才,体现了"针锋相对",加强了批判性。这样,本文在思想性方面属一流:充分切题,选材(作为印证的事例)恰当,论据富有说服力。
- 2. 本文结构还算严谨: 开篇提出论点, 然后选择适当的模式(例证)予以展开。语法、句法正确。
- 3. 但本文的毛病也较突出(GRE 阅卷人评语): While the writer handles language and syntax well, several bothersome problems keep this otherwise well-argued paper out of the 6 category. The problems vary from the lack of a pronoun referent ("When a sickness progresses or becomes diagnosed... he may be referred to a specialist") to an error in parallel structure ("...how it begins, progresses and specified treatments"), to loose syntax and imprecise language ("Generalized teachers are required to begin molding students at a very early age so they can get ready for the future ahead of them in gaining more facts about the basic subjects and ...").

本文有这么多缺陷,为何仍得高分?答案可能是: 1)语言的毛病属较高层次上的毛病(如代词无所指,排比不工整,等等),不属低级毛病(如愚蠢的、基本的语法错误),不属"broken English"; 2)思想性方面的突出优势。

3. 对一份 4 分作文的评语

GRE 阅卷人评语摘要:

Overall, this is a competent response to the topic... By paragraph 3, however, the discussion falters, and the concluding paragraph does little more than repeat ideas presented in the first two paragraphs... This essay displays generally adequate control over syntax and usage, and the word choice, while appropriate, lacks precision.

本文(430单词)突出的优点是开篇(第一句)的成功:对原论点作出全面回应,兼 提出自己的论点。该论点不仅正确,还言简意赅,很有气势。

语言也有相当水平。

本文的结构很有问题, 大有改善的余地。作者在第一段既提出了全文的论点, 马上又

将它展开来予以详述。这十分不得体。应将本段一分为二。

第二段在一定程度上重复了第一段,第三段则严重地重复了第二段。第四段并无实质性内容,只是一个形式上的结论,属"为结论而结论"。

由于思想性方面的突出优点和语言水平,被判"合格"。

4. 对一份 3 分作文的评语

GRE 阅卷人评语摘要:

This response displays some competence but is flawed by imprecise use of language and limited analysis of the issue... The example, while relevant, is not adequately developed. The middle paragraph traces the flexibility of the U. S. Constitution to the generalist orientation of 18th century leaders, but the ideas in the first paragraph are too vaguely expressed to contribute to this discussion, and the final paragraph consists of unsubstantiated generalities... Frequent minor errors in punctuation, pronoun use, and verb tense, as well as imprecise syntax and phrasing (e. g., "Generalists have the ideas and beliefs of what America is made of" and "...gave the creation of the Constitution the ability to...") contribute to the overall inadequacy of this response.

本文(209 单词)作者看懂了文题,并作出了实质性的回应。但这种回应远非全面: 文中只稍稍提及 specialists,其余篇幅用于片面强调 generalist 的重要性。作者也没有提出 一个可被展开来进行详述的论点,自然也没有合适的结论。此外,作者对关键词 specialist 和 generalist 的理解也不值得称道。本文之所以失败,主要是思想性差。

作者有基本的语言能力,但各类语言错误明显。

教训:凡属审题失误,并从而在思想性方面出现严重不足,就难于得到好成绩。

5. 对一份 2 分作文的评语

GRE 阅卷人评语摘要:

The response presents a position on the issue but the development of that position is seriously flawed... The writer begins by... The attempt is unsuccessful, partly because the descriptions are vague and ill-conceived. Whereas the example of going to a "general practitioner doctor" is certainly relevant, the writer's claim that a general practitioner would tell a patient with chest pains that the problem "may be heart burns or something else that's not so serious" seems far-fetched... The response is further weakened by poor word choice and by numerous errors in sentence structure, usage, and grammar. These problems, while not severe enough to seriously interfere with meaning, contribute to the overall rating of "2."

本文(178 单词)作者审题失误,从而立论部分(第一句)不是对原论点的全面回应,而只部分地涉及了它。全文的宗旨是强调 specialist 比 generalist 更重要。由于这一片面性,本文在思想方面基本上没有可取之处。

作者有一定的语言能力,但看不出受过写作方面的训练,证据是文章没有章法,类似不经意的一席闲谈,

由于文章终究提出了论点,并进行了某种分析和论述,所以仍被判2分。

6. 对一份 1 分作文的评语

GRE 阅卷人评语摘要:

... there are fundamental deficiencies in analysis and development... The essay begins with a tautology... Then, in the three short paragraphs that follow, the writer promises to discuss... but none of these discussions materialize... The rest of the essay only confirms the sense of "fundamental deficiency." Rather than analyze the issue, the writer unpersuasively vilifies specialists as people... Although the errors (sentence fragments, incorrect verb tenses, and awkward syntax) are persistent, language problems alone do not earn this essay a score of "1." Rather, this response fits the scoring guide criterion of showing "little evidence of the ability to develop or organize a coherent response to the topic."

本文(159单词)第一段立论部分体现了对原论点后半部分的回应。如不考虑原论点,这一立论本身并没有毛病。本文得1分,很可能就是因为这一立论部分本身尚有可取之处。

本文其后部分一无可取:

第二段共四句,第一句与后几句并无逻辑关联。对 specialist 的攻击毫无根据,不具说服力。

第三段前一句与后一句毫无逻辑关联。对 instructors 的攻击毫无根据。

第四段共三句,第一句与后两句毫无逻辑关联。就此打住,似乎缺一归纳(结论)。

以下四份被评阅的试卷的作文题(argument topic)为:

Hospital statistics regarding people who go to the emergency room after rollerskating accidents indicate the need for more protective equipment. Within this group of people, 75 percent of those who had accidents in streets or parking lots were not wearing any protective clothing (helmets, knee pads, etc.) or any light-reflecting material (clip-on lights, glow-in-the-dark wrist pads, etc.). Clearly, these statistics indicate that by investing in high quality protective gear and reflective equipment, rollerskaters will greatly reduce their risk of being severely injured in an accident.

7. 对一份 6 分作文的评语

GRE 阅卷人评语摘要:

This outstanding response demonstrates the writer's insightful analytical skills...The introduction, which notes that ... is followed by a comprehensive examination of each of the argument's root flaws...The discussion is smoothly and logically organized, and each point is thoroughly and cogently developed...the writing is succinct, economical and error-free. Sentences are varied and complex, and diction is expressive and precise...this essay exemplifies the very top of the "6" range described in the scoring guide. If the writer had been less eloquent or provided fewer reasons to refute the argument, the essay could still have been scored "6."

与前面那篇 6 分作文一样,本试卷(611 单词)有三大优点:1)思想性突出;2)具

备一般的语言能力和写作技巧——没有常见的毛病; 3)表现了高级的写作技巧和语言能力,即在修辞方面有突出表现。

8. 对一份 3 分作文的评语

GRE 阅卷人评语摘要:

The first half of this generally well-written but limited response merely describes the argument. The second half of the paper identifies two assumptions of the argument... Neither of these analytic points is developed adequately; together, however, they are sufficient to constitute "some analysis" and thus warrant a score of "3."

本文(151单词)对原论断作出了回应(总体评价),但这一回应有矛盾:一方面说它"有根据"(well... supported),同时又说它"推论不完全合理"(not completely well reasoned)。请看作者如何反驳:原议论只提及购买保护器械,但是,若是购买器械后不使用它们,或不正确使用它们,那又如何呢?这样的诘难显然太牵强附会,有吹毛求疵之嫌,因为,常识告诉我们,购买就是为了使用。可见,本文的思想性有问题。

语言本身不错,但展开(分析)得不充分。

一句话,作者按作文的要求做了,但表现不够好,属典型的3分作文。

9. 对一份 2 分作文的评语

GRE 阅卷人评语摘要:

This seriously flawed response, rather than critiquing the argument, suggests... In essence, the writer is uncritically accepting the argument... The response exhibits serious and frequent problems in sentence structure and language use. Errors—word choice, verb tenses, subject-verb agreement, punctuation—are numerous and sometimes interfere with meaning... This essay earns a score of "2" because it demonstrates both serious linguistic weaknesses and failure to construct a critique based on logical analysis.

本文(174 单词)实际上没有对原论据作出评断,而是脱离它自己另发一通议论,犯下了就 argument topic 作文时最严重的错误,从而在思想性方面无可取之处。

通篇语病。没有体现出基本的写作技巧。

本文尚得 2 分,很可能的原因是:作者终究对原议论作出了合法的回应(赞同它),语言方面也表现了有限的表达能力。

10. 对一份 1 分作文的评语

GRE 阅卷人评语摘要:

This fundamentally deficient response uncritically accepts the reasoning of the prompt... There is no evidence, though, that the writer is able to understand or analyze the argument; what follows, except for a few additional words, merely copies the prompt. This two-sentence response is repeated—verbatim—over and over... Language and usage are equally problematic. The few words that have been added, in combination with the words of the prompt, result in incoherence. In sum, this essay fits all of the scoring guide descriptors for a score of "1".

本文(380单词)尚得1分,可能的原因是:阅卷人尚能感觉出作文人是在谈论相关

的问题,没有彻底离题(否则就该判0分)。除此以外,本文毫无可取之处。

五 总结

按照 GRE 写作固有标准,以及 GRE 阅卷人的判分和评论,我们发现最优秀的("杰出"类)作文必须在思想和语言(写作)两种能力方面都有突出表现。即具备这些条件:
□ 思想性方面:体现出真知灼见;上面两篇 6 分作文都被称为 insightful,就是这个意思。
□ 写作基本功:写作技巧的训练有素,有语言功底(如较强的词汇能力)。对第一篇 6 分作文的评价是 meticulous development, impressive vocabulary,对第二篇 6 分作文的评价是语言上没有错误(error-free)。
□ 高级写作技巧:表现出修辞方面的修养和能力。对第一篇 6 分作文的评价是: a mastery of the elements of effective writing,对第二篇 6 分作文的评价是: the writing is succinct, economical... Sentences are varied and complex, and diction is expressive and precise.

不同程度地在这些方面有所欠缺,得分递减。

GRE 作文考试在思想能力和写作能力(即文章的语言方面)这两者之间,略偏向于前者。GRE 主持人明确说明:除非影响文章的连贯性、影响表意,否则阅卷人不会对试卷中细微的语言错误作出重大扣分(原话: GRE scorers do not penalize writers for minor linguistic errors that do not interfere with coherence or meaning.)。这一规定对非美国本土的考生有利(将英语作为外语学习的人们难免不出这一类错误)。比如,这些考生如早作准备、接受训练,要具备上述第一、第二个条件,让自己的作文得 5 分,并不难。

只是人们不能因上面的规定而忽视语言。事实上,从上面的样卷我们已经看出,因语 言的低劣而得不到理想成绩的实例也同样令人触目惊心。

在后面的部分,我们将按上述要求,帮助应试者准备该项考试。

本书作文题(话题)一览

本书将全书覆盖的作文题(共 51 道,其中 issue topic 27 道, argument topic 24 道)辑在一处,供学习者预先独立审读,以考验自己审题的能力。如果愿意花工夫,还不妨预先作文,然后再细读有关的章节,参阅相应的范文。

为方便使用,本书对话题和范文实行编号。编号含义:括号前为章(节)号,括号内为总序号。比如,5-1(23)表示,这是为第五章第一节内容配合的作文题,是本书的第23道作文题。

范文与相应的话题采用同一编号。

1-1 (1) (Argument Topic)

Many employees of major United States corporations are fearful that they will lose their jobs in the near future, but this fear is largely unfounded. According to a recent study, a majority of companies expected to make new hires in the coming year, while fewer companies expected to lay off employees. In addition, although it is very disturbing to be laid off, the proliferation of programs and of workshops designed to improve job-finding skills has made being laid off far less painful than it once was.

1-1 (2) (Argument Topic)

The following appeared in a newspaper feature story. "There is now evidence that the relaxed manner of living in small towns promotes better health and greater longevity than does the hectic pace of life in big cities. Businesses in the small town of Leeville report fewer days of sick leave taken by individual workers than do businesses in the nearby large city of Mason City. Furthermore, Leeville has only one physician for its one thousand residents, but in Mason City the proportion of physicians to residents is five times as high. And the average age of Leeville residents is significantly higher than that of Mason City residents. These findings suggest that people seeking longer and healthier lives should consider moving to small communities."

1 – 2 (3) (Issue Topic)

Most people would agree that buildings represent a valuable record of any society's past, but controversy arises when old buildings stand on ground that modern planners feel could be better used for modern purposes. In such situations, modern development should be given precedence over the preservation of historic buildings so that contemporary needs can be served.

1-2 (4) (**Issue Topic**)

Tradition and modernization are incompatible. One must choose between them.

1-2 (5) (Argument Topic)

The following appeared as part of a letter to the editor of a local newspaper. "During her three years in office, Governor Riedeburg has shown herself to be a worthy leader. Since she took office, crime has decreased, the number of jobs created per year has doubled, and the number of people choosing to live in our state has increased. These trends are likely to continue if she is reelected. In addition, Ms. Riedeburg has promised to take steps to keep big companies here, thereby providing jobs for any new residents. Anyone who looks at Ms. Riedeburg's record can tell that she is the best-qualified candidate for governor."

1-3 (6) (Argument Topic)

The following appeared in a newspaper feature story. "At the small, nonprofit hospital in the town of Saluda, the average length of a patient's stay is two days; at the large, for-profit hospital in the nearby city of Megaville, the average patient stay is six days. Also, the cure rate among patients in the Saluda hospital is about twice that of the Megaville hospital. The Saluda hospital has more employees per patient than the hospital in Megaville, and there are few complaints about service at the local hospital. Such data indicate that treatment in smaller, non-profit hospitals is more economical and of better quality than treatment in larger, for-profit hospitals."

1-3 (7) (**Issue Topic**)

Imprisonment for violent crimes should be made as unpleasant as possible in order to deter potential offenders from committing such crimes.

2-1 (8) (Issue Topic)

When research priorities are being set for science, education, or any other area, the most important question to consider is: How many people's lives will be improved if the results are successful?

2-2 (9) (Argument Topic)

The Department of Education in the state of Attra recommends that high school students be assigned homework every day. Yet a recent statewide survey of high school math and science teachers calls the usefulness of daily homework into question. In the district of Sanlee, 86 percent of the teachers reported assigning homework three to five times a week, whereas in the district of Marlee, less than 25 percent of the teachers reported assigning homework three to five times a week. Yet the students in Marlee earn better grades overall and are less likely to be required to repeat a year of school than are the students in Sanlee. Therefore, all teachers in our high schools should assign homework no more than twice a week, if at all.

2 – 2 (10) (Issue Topic)

The purpose of education should be to provide students with a value system, a standard, a set of ideas—not to prepare them for a specific job.

2 – 3 (11) (Issue Topic)