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# 美国大学生 作文选

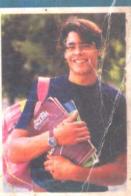
American College Compositions

★学习美国英语的写作技巧

★了解彼岸靑年的心理心态













世界知识出版社 World Affgirs Press

# 美国大学生作文选 American College Compositions

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世界知识出版社

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### 前言

在美国期间,承蒙美国 Cedar Crest (锡达·克雷斯特)大学 Tim Bossard 教授先生的鼎力相助,我得以从美国数所大学中的大量的学生作文中精选出 49 篇编辑成这本集子。

用英语作文是学英语的学生必须具备的能力,同时练习写作也是学习英语的重要途径。大学英语专业都设有写作课程,甚至连高考试题里也有写作一项。笔者近年来连续参加了高考阅卷,有幸审读考生们写的作文。给我印象很深的是,我国学生英文写作水平差别很大。好的作文章法有序,语法正确,思路明晰;而差些的则语法混乱,词不达意,乃至凌乱不堪,无法卒读。从中可看出写作训练对提高英语水平的重要意义。

我们提倡写出语法正确、文辞漂亮、风格得体的 文章并非是为了摆设,而是为了更好地适应当今社 会的需求。写一封商业往来的信件,发一份合同,都 需要表达得清晰、得体,让人爱看爱读,这样才能促成一笔买卖,完成一项工作,而这些都离不开扎实的写作基础训练。基础是一步一步打下的,不可能一蹴而就。改革开放后有不少学生希冀出国深造。据说许多人托福成绩考得不错,但偏偏每次都没被国外的大学录取;究其原因是寄出的材料文笔太差,语法错误层出不穷,风格又不得体,而国外大学要求有正规的和风格得体的英文材料。由此可见,我们不仅要一点一滴地苦练写作的基本功,还要从一开始就有意识地培养自己清新的写作风格、严密的逻辑思维习惯和丰富的表达能力,让写出来的东西脉络清楚,语言丰富,表达准确,思想深刻,能给人以启迪,这其实就是写作课程的目的所在。

能上作文课的人自然可以学到不少东西,但也可通过自学写出好文章,只要在阅读时善于留意和模仿。关于写作方面的书籍,国内已出版了不少,但讲理论的居多,以范文为主的鲜见,至于英语国家的大学生写的作文,基本上就看不到。因此,我想这本集子的出版对我国的英语学习者来说是件好事。除了出自国内著名的英语专家之手的文章外,许多由中国人写的英语文章,总不免带有一股或强或的"中国腔",这是在所难免的;因为,英语毕竟不是我们的母语,我们的语言习惯、表达方法、思维模式乃至文化习俗都与英语国家的人有着很大的差别。我也见过许多写得不错的英语作文。它们语法准确,用词得当,行文流畅,思想深刻;但遗憾的是,拘谨有余,幽默不足,行文中少了些能折射出英语国家浓郁

生活气息的各种常用俚语和习语,让人读来总觉得干巴巴的。然而美国大学生的优秀作文在行文上则充满活力生机,俏皮幽默,俚语习语掺杂其间,给人有血有肉的新鲜感。这是我们在用英语写作时应该认真学习的。

阅读英语国家大学生写的优秀作文对我国的英语学习者来说好处是多方面的。

首先,可以丰富国外风土人情方面的知识。本书就有关于美国年轻人与汽车打交道的经验;在美国,几乎家家都有车,就必然会生出一些有趣的故事和感想。再如,美国大学的学费大概是世界上最昂贵的,那么学生们如何靠打工弥补学费的不足,以减轻父母的负担呢?他们的感受又是如何的呢?又如,美国的军人家庭是怎样的?学生们离家外出独立后有什么样的心情?他们是如何应付内心的迷惘和失落的?这些在选文里都有反映。有的还写到了友情的?这些在选文里都有反映。有的还写到了友情的?这些在选文里都有反映。有的还写到了友情的?这些在选文里都有反映。有的还写到了友情的?这些在选文里都有反映。有的还写到了友情的?这些作文时,犹如随着美国学生的笔触漫游,领路异国风光,尽管并非所有的景致都十分灿烂夺目。透过异国风情的表层,有助于我们更深入地了解美国社会,了解美国人的思想情感和生活现实。

其次,这些来源于社会生活的美国大学生作文也为中国读者,尤其是青年读者,了解美国社会和美国政治提供了活生生的教材。任何事物都具有两面·性。我们有些青年人对美国的社会生活和政治体制不甚了解,总把美国的"民主政治"想象得"完美无

缺",但当你读完本书中由美国青年学生自己写的 《正在衰落的民主》一文后,你会感到原来美国的所谓"民主政体"也有其难言的阴暗面。

再则,阅读这些作文可使我们了解到我们不太 常见的文章风格和笔法,并以资借鉴。本书所选的文 章不是"一本正经"的说教,如《米撒过以后》、《岁月 留痕》、《奥吉的秘密》等篇都写得很幽默,很智慧,折 射出美国人轻松活泼的性格。写作是对想象力的挑 战和训练,书中也不乏想象力好的文章,如《鼻子与 篱笆》等,在让人忍俊不禁的同时,还道出了一定的 哲理。有些作文是论说性的,以逻辑和事实取胜,表 述作者的看法,多少触及到一些社会文化现象,如那 篇描写亚裔美国人在美国大学颇为成功的原因及其 社会背景的作文,几乎达到了论文的水平:有论据, 有分析,夹叙夹议,得出的结论很让人信服。这种文 章对学习写论文的中国大学生来说肯定会有所裨 益。同样风格的还有《赖特大学伙食一瞥》,也写得头 头是道,有理有据;作者事先做了大量的采访和调 杳、文章就显得很有份量、颇似一篇较有深度的新闻 分析。

最后,阅读这样的文章可以学到地道英语和各种表达方法。本书所选作文不管是何种风格、笔法,在语言上都很地道,值得我们在阅读时用心揣摩。我们不妨比较一下同样的说法我们可能会怎样写,而美国人的说法又是怎样的;尤其是许多习语或俚语,因为我们从没见过,就更应细心地去留意,去掌握,从而丰富自己的英语语言知识。

本书的美国大学生作者也同中国的大学生一样,经历着人生的转折点。他们的心灵和情感正由不成熟走向成熟,因而难免表现出精神上的困惑、感伤和迷茫。希望读者在阅读时尽可能地吸取积极的一面,同样也吸取美国文化和社会中积极的一面,以便更好地思索人生和憧憬人生。

借本书出版之机,我谨向《英语沙龙》杂志主编兼《英语沙龙》系列读物总策划吴龙森先生,向所有为本书花费了辛勤劳动的《英语沙龙》编辑部的诸位编辑、校对、排版人员表示由衷的感谢。

倘若读者能真心喜欢这本书,从中获益,便是我 最大的满足了。

> 王秋海 1999 年 1 月于北京

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## FEELING THE PINCH

### 感受艰辛

When I started on my long journey to the school I would be calling home for the next four years, I had no idea of the challenges I would be facing. I was leaving my home, my siblings, and my parents, the people who had raised me and protected me for eighteen years. I was leaving a place where all my necessary needs were taken care of my food, clothing, and medical bills. The only hardships I encountered in high-school were paying for gasoline, the movies, or that new CD I wanted. I had it easy living at home, and I took that for granted.

The first day I arrived on campus I got a little t ste of what I would be experiencing for the next four years. I was told my tuition had not



been paid, and I could not move into my dorm room until my balance was paid. For the first time in my life I had to handle a serious financial situation on my own, because my parents were no longer around to help me out. My parents did not fully support my decision to attend Marywood College because they knew they could not afford it. I had decided at the last minute to take my chances that the loans I had applied for would be approved, and that I could afford to come here. So after writing out a check that would almost completely delete all of my savings, I moved into my dorm room.



Being safely moved into my new home and having my tuition bill, for that moment, squared away, I felt relaxed. Nevertheless, that relaxation did not last very long. I soon realized that although I did not have to pay for heat, water, or electricity, I had to pay for almost everything

else. By that I mean food, phone bills, car insurance<sup>2</sup>, cable, and all my own necessities, and without a job that was almost impossible. Luckily, I was eligible for work study, but seventy dollars every two weeks is not much to live on. I was desperate and falling more deeply into debt every day. I hated asking for help from my parents, because I knew they really could not afford it, but I really had no other choice.

My father agreed to give me a small loan and promised he would send money whenever he could to help me out. So far he has stuck to his promise, which is a big help to me. My mother, on the other hand, has been a little more practical by sending me food, medicine, and other necessities. She even bought me brand new snow tires for Christmas, because is a knew I could never afford them. My parents help has relieved a little of my financial burden, but it walls he a long while before I can splarge and buy something for my tell like I used to in high schools.

I have been here for almost three months and every day has been a struggle for me. Even though my loans were approved, I still have to come up with money to fix my car, which always seems to be breaking down, to pay my phone bill, which seems to get more expensive every month, and to buy food so I will not go hungry, if I miss a meal in my meal plan<sup>3</sup>. Another struggle I have to look forward to in the future is pay-

ing off all the loans I have just to go to this school. Sometimes I wonder if all this money borrowing and penny-pinching is worth it, but then I realize that without a good education I would have no hope of ever making enough money to survive in the real world.

So in conclusion. I strongly believe that the financial pressures I have experienced here at college will eventually make me a person that is more capable of balancing a budget and supporting a family in the future.

NOTES 注釋: 1. 句中的"that"是强调用法。2. 美国的汽车保险 费很贵, 每年都要付。3. a meal plan 是学生在食堂吃饭的饭卡,有每周 19 顿的、16 顿的等等,需不断往里续钱才能生效。

[参考译文] 我已踏上了上大学的长长旅途,在未来的 4 年中 我将把学校当作自己的家,但当我这样做时,对我所面临的 挑战却没有丝毫的准备。我离开了家,离开了兄弟姐妹,离开了父母,这些人在过去的 18 年里一直养育和袒护着我。我离开了我吃、穿和医疗费用等一切生活需要都有人照应的地方。我在中学遇到的仅有的难事儿就是得付汽油费、花电影票钱,还要花钱买我特别喜欢的新 CD 唱盘。我在家里活得轻松自在,而且认为理所当然。

到达校园的第一天,我就经历了在未来 4 年中将会尝到的滋味。校方告诉我说我的学费尚未支付,在把学费补齐前,我不能搬进宿舍。由于我身边没有父母的帮助,我生平第一次必须独立地处理一项棘手的资金问题。我父母不怎么支持我上马里伍德学院,因为他们付不起学费。我直到最后一刻才冒险地认为我申请的贷款将得到批准,因而我能有钱来这个学校。于是在我开出一张把我的存款几乎全部提出的支票后,我搬进了宿舍。

我顺当地搬入了新家,把当时的学费也付清了,顿感松了一口气。但我的轻松感稍纵即逝。我很快便发现,虽然我不必付取暖费和水电费,但其他所有的费用几乎都要支付。我指的是伙食、电话费、汽车保险、有线电视及所有的个人必需品。如果不打工我是绝对支付不起的。幸好我有资格半工半读,但每周 35 美元实在难以维持。我深感绝望,债台越筑越高。我极不想求助于父母,因为我知道他们也没钱,但我别无选择。

我爸爸答应借给我一点儿钱,并允诺只要有钱就随时寄给我,帮我度过难关。到目前为止他一直说话算数,这对我帮助很大。我妈妈则更实际一些,给我寄吃的、药品和其他必需品。圣诞节时她甚至还为我购买了崭新的防雪车胎,因为她知道我自己永远也买不起。父母的帮助减轻了我经济上的一些负担,但我要想象在中学时那样大手大脚地花钱为自己买东西,恐怕还要过很长一段时间。

我入校已经有3个月,每天都是一场战斗。尽管我的贷款申请批准了,可我仍需要钱修我那辆总是抛锚的车,支付与月俱增的电话费及购买食品以避免挨饿,因为有时我赶不上食堂的饭。我在未来面临的另一场战斗是要还清我上这所学院所申请的所有贷款。有时我想这样借钱和一分一分地节省是否值得,不过我已意识到如果没有受过良好的教育,指望挣足够的钱在现实社会中谋生将是痴心妄想。

总之,我坚信我现在在学院里所经历的经济上的压力, 最终将使我在未来懂得如何掌握收支平衡,并能够支撑起一 个家庭。 by Jennifer Jansson

### WHO WAS MARY?

#### 鸦丽其人

It is the year of the big reunion for my high school class. Everyone will be there --or almost everyone. The members of our class are an unusual group. They are graduate students at Stanford and other universities, musicians with the New York Symphony, teachers, salesmen, business managers, a millionaire (he never did really graduate), and almost every profession you can think of. Although we numbered less than a hundred, we were a group that did things. I think over my fellow students, and I am impressed. Then I remember Mary: timid as a deer, yet sticking in my memory.

I looked at her pictures in the succession of yearbooks. Her freshman and sophomore pictures