

# WRITING TRAINING

## Lesson 2\_introduction

In lesson 1, we talked about the arguments and its consistence. Let's take a review at first.

An argument should include two parts: the thesis and reasons. Thesis means we should present a well-defined point of view on the topic we want to talk about and add reasons that are relevant to the point of view. The reasons should firstly be absolutely logically relevant to our point of view and secondly persuasive. Emotional and subjective reasons are often not recommended, given the degree of persuasiveness. However, this is not absolute; everything still takes precedence over logical relevance and is centred on serving the theme of the point of view.

A critical essay is in fact an extension of an argument - when we write the reasons in sufficient detail, the length of the essay will naturally increase, and it will change from a sentence expressing an opinion to an essay with an opinion and reasons. The common structure of a critical essay is divided into these three parts: introduction, body and conclusion. As the name suggests, introduction and conclusion are both directly related to our thesis, while body is related to our 'reasoned argument'. The body is directly related to our 'logical argument to explain the point'.

And in this lesson, we will talk about **the introduce part**, which aims to introduce the topic to the readers and present the thesis. In fact, we are no strangers to this function - both Chinese and English reading comprehension ask about the role of the first paragraph. What we need to learn is not only to be able to recognize what the first paragraph does, but also to tailor a competent first paragraph according to that role.

As I said above, the necessary elements of the introduction part are twofold: an introduction to the topic of the text, and your point of view. For example, if you want to talk about 'the effect of a smile', then you should undoubtedly get right to the point. Of course, quotations or writing prose-like openings are also an option, but what I mean is that you need to do this before the end of the introduction part. Note that the introduction part does not mean the first paragraph. It is also possible to tell a story or example as the whole of the first paragraph and then start another paragraph to state your theme and attitude

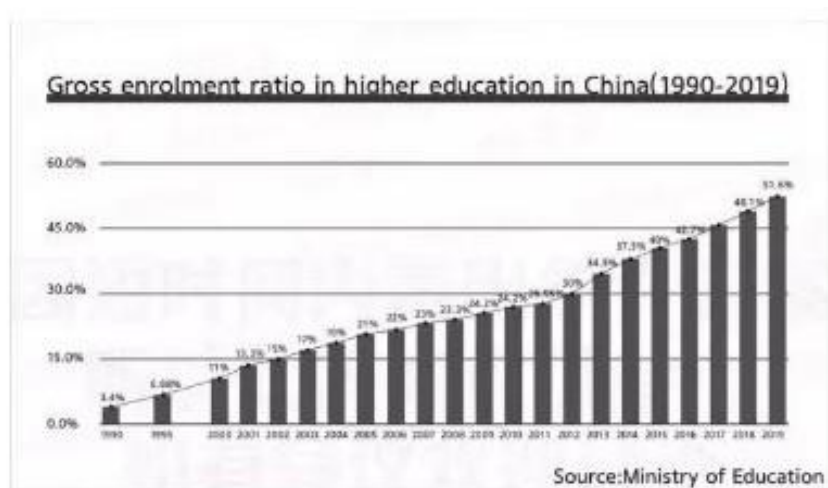
The second point is that there is no need to make a clear distinction between topic and point

of view, **but the point of view must be clear**. Again, if you want to argue 'the effect of a smile' and have a positive point of view, then a good choice would be to state a 'positive attitude' in the introduction part. We have a foundation in writing Chinese argumentative essays, and we will talk about the general thesis and the sub-arguments. Then "smile can bring positive power to people" can be placed in the first paragraph as the general argument, laying the foundation for the rest of the arguments (i.e. the body part).

Let's do some exercises.

Please write the introduction parts about these topics. And if time permitted, writing several arguments is an alternative.

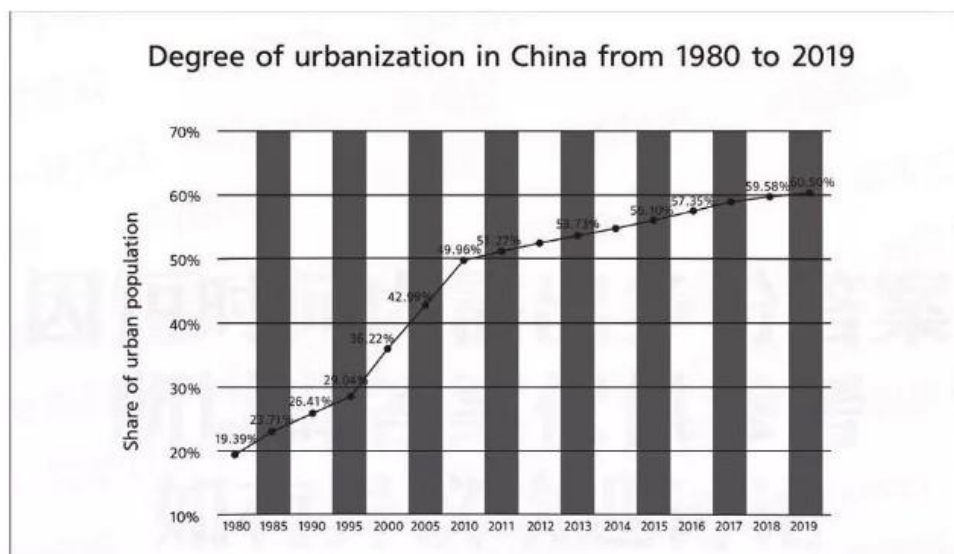
### 1. (2021.06) China's achievements in higher education



**Directions:**For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write an essay based on the chart below.You should start your essay with a brief description of the chart and comment on China's achievements in poverty alleviation.<sup>1</sup>

### 2. (2021.06) China's achievements in urbanization

<sup>1</sup> 高三网.<http://www.gaosan.com/gaokao/374809.html>.2021 年 6 月英语六级作文真题及参考范文



**Directions:**For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write an essay based on the graph below. You should start your essay with a brief description of the graph and comment on China's achievements in urbanization. You should write at least 150words but no more than 200words.<sup>2</sup>

**Notice:** Next lesson we will talk about the body part, including the logical connections among different sub-arguments. We'll do some Sorting Questions at that time.

**Reference:**

[1] 唐磊等.思辨式英文写作.中国大学 MOOC

<https://www.icourse163.org/course/NKU-1003353002>

[2]高三网.2021 年 6 月英语六级作文真题及参考范文

<http://www.gaosan.com/gaokao/374809.html>.

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<sup>2</sup> 同上