**Analysis of an argument**

**preparing strategies**

1, 熟读题目

2, 闪光句型

3, critical thinking

4, 形成各类问题自己的分析思路（模板）

5, 列每道题提纲

6, 全文练习10-20篇

**Argument writing steps**

1, 审题，画逻辑链

2, 分析评价每个环节

3, 确定要写的环节（列提纲）

4, 结合模板展开

**审题：**

分清论据和结论，看清推理关系

**写作原则**

* 逻辑：切中要害
* 语言：言简意赅
* 词汇：正规书面语言
* 句式：变化，适度复杂

**How to write the introduction**

**Basic elements**

* Concession (Cc)
* Description (D)
* Conclusion (cl)
* Evidence/Assumption (ev)
* Feature (f)
* Suggestion (S)
* Evaluation (El)

**基本写法**

* D + El
* Cl + Ev + El

【Evidence与conclusion合并表达】

* In this argument, the arguer cites the evidence that … to reach the conclusion that …
* By citing the evidence that … , the arguer concludes that …

**fallacies in topics**

题目中常见缺陷

**1, flaws in evidence 论据中的问题**

1) Problems about surveys 调查类问题

**Procedure of a typical survey**

* 分子群体 (sub-groups)
* 确定子群体比例 (percentage)
* 随机取样 (Randomly select sample)

A, selective sample 选择性样本

Example : A 137 (p63)

* Many teachers were actually excluded from the survey.
* The result of the survey lacks credibility because……
* The result of the survey lacks credibility, therefore could not lend strong support to what the arguer maintains.
* cause-effect fallacy: The arguer fails to establish the causal relationship between A and B.

Example 2: A 108 (p55)

* Without detailed information about the subscribers of ‘Cheese of the World’, we cannot determine whether they are representative of all consumers.
* The author does not provide any information about the actual profit of domestic and imported cheeses respectively.

B, Do the statistics make any difference? 调查是否有意义

Example : A 81 (p48)

* In the absence of / For lack of /Lacking / Without / Absent data concerning the total amount of tuna cans sold
* The argument treats a lack of proof that the cans may pose some extent of health risk as constituting sufficient proof that the cans were not responsible for any of the sickness.

C, quantity of the sample 样本的数量

Example : A 113 (p56)

* The sample is too limited. How about other graduates?
* The arguer commits a fallacy of false analogy. Are these companies comparable?

D, What question was asked in the survey? 调查所问问题是否恰当

Example : A 55 (p41)

* The arguer ignores other possible factors that could lead to the decline in the sales of their games.
* No evidence could indicate that players 10-25 years old will prefer graphics as first priority.

E, Who conducted the survey? 调查的进行机构

Example : A 81 (p48)

F, When was the survey conducted? 调查的时效性

G, are the respondents forthright? 回应者是否诚实

H, are the respondents representative? 回应者是否具有代表性

Example : A 43 (p37)

2) Problems about data/ information 数据信息类问题

A, vague data 模糊数据

Example: A 32 (p35)

* The arguer fails to convince us that the safety record in Panoply is superior, because we do not know the total number of workers in each plant.
* Granted that……, we cannot ensure that it is the shorter shift that resulted in less accidents.
* False analogy: If the two plants are not comparable at some aspect, then copying P’s actions might backfire.

B, completeness 信息完整性

Example : A 73 (p46)

* The author unfairly attributes the graduates’ success to the education they received in Mozart School.
* The argument simply equates becoming famous and getting highly paid with musical achievements.

**2, Flaws in the reasoning line 推理过程漏洞**

1) False analogy

错误类比

Example : A 77 (p47)

* The arguer does not demonstrate how the golf course and the hotel actually contributed to the economy.
* 对错误类比问题的评价思路：双方是否存在可能差异

2) confusing comparison and variation 横向比较与纵向比较混淆

Example : A 48 (p39)

* A does not indicate B: The number of physicians does not necessarily indicate the quality of health-care.

3) incomplete comparison/ selective comparison/ *ex parte* information 不完整比较/选择性比较/单方面信息

Example : A 170 (p72)

* other factors that could influence the condition of roads:
* traffic;
* weather, geological factors;
* maintenance
* No evidence about the performance of the new quality-control manager at Appian is provided.

4) hasty generalization 草率推广

A. unrelated concepts 无关概念

B. changing scopes 差异范围

C. inferring a future condition from a past condition 从过去情况推知将来

Example 1: A 75 (p46)

* The number of dairy farms does not necessarily indicate the supply of milk.
* after adjustment for inflation 扣除通货膨胀因素

How much did the price of milk actually increase after adjustment for inflation?

* demand: supply
* cost: profit

Example 2: A 109 (p55)

* A is not a good indication of B.

The sales of recorded music are not a good indication of whether people prefer rock and roll.

B, changing scopes 差异范围

Example : A 63 (p43)

* The arguer does not differentiate between the severity of injuries.

C. inferring a future condition from a past condition 从过去情况推知将来

* 评价的基本思路：有否变化因素

Example: 33 (p35)

* The author's inference rests on the assumption that all conditions upon which the demand for electricity depends will remain unchanged in the future.

5) failing to weigh the advantages and disadvantages thoroughly 未能全面衡量正负得失

Example : A 58 (p42)

* Installing the software may actually pose negative effects on employees’ morale, rather than the better work ethic conceived by the author.

6) false dilemma (either-or fallacy) 非此即彼，极端选择

Example : A 133 (p62)

* Customers in other regions might be more fastidious about taste of food.

7) cause–effect fallacies 因果关系错误

A, confusing the cause and the effect 因果倒置

Example : A 40 (p37)

* We need evidence to rule out the possibility that those people are more likely to suffer from bone fractures, and they consume these foods as prevention.

B, non-causal relationship 直接无因果

Example : A 46 (p38)

* The fitness levels of the regions might be declining compared with themselves although the levels are relatively highest.

C, confusing concurrence with causality 同时性混淆为因果性

Example : A 36 (p36)

* The high fish-consumption only parallels the low incidence of colds. No further evidence could illustrate the relationship between them.
* 对比实验 Controlled Experiment

Counterparts 对比参照物

* How about the incidence of colds of East Meria residents who frequently eat fish?
* How about the rate compared with residents who rarely eat fish?

D, *post hoc, ergo propter hoc* 时间先后混淆为因果性

Example : A 71 (p45)

**3, flaws in the conclusion结论的问题**

1) sufficiency and necessity of the solution 对策的充分性和必要性

Example : A 42 (p37)

2) failing to consider the feasibility of the conclusion 未考虑结论的可行性

Example : A 44 (p38)

* If the consumers can reliably distinguish products that are made with CCC’s copper?
* Are the consumers willing to cooperate in the boycott?
* 定义攻击法 critique on term-definition

用途：

1, 模糊；

2, 吓人；

3, 无关概念

**How to develop body paragraphs**

1, 正文段数量

一般3-4个；

每段3-8句

2, 如何对应写作要求

* 分析推理的假设（Assumption）
* 讨论需要回答哪些问题方能评价上文recommendation是否合理；
* 讨论需要回答哪些问题方能评价上文 advice是否合理；
* 讨论需要回答哪些问题方能评价上文 prediction是否合理；
* 讨论需要回答哪些问题方能评价上文 recommendation是否能达到预期效果 (Question)
* 讨论需要提供哪些证据方能评价上文（Evidence）
* 对于上文结论还有哪些其他解释（Alternative Explanation）

**语言对应**

**assumption:**

the author assumes that …

the underlying assumption that…

**question:**

We may well ask that …

Another question that should be addressed is …

**evidence:**

We need to know that …

The author should provide evidence / information / data about …

在不同写作要求下论证错误类比的段落：

**assumption:**

1, The arguer suggests that A should copy B.

2, This inference is based on an assumption that A and B are comparable.

3, However, A and B may differ in …

4, Before the arguer can substantiate the critical assumption that …, we cannot …

**question:**

1, The arguer suggests that A should copy B.

2, To evaluate …, we may ask that …

3, As we know, A and B may differ in …

4, Before the arguer can address the question that…, we cannot …

**evidence:**

1, The arguer suggests that A should copy B.

2, To evaluate …, we need evidence about …

3, If A and B differ in …, then …

4, Before the arguer can provide more information about …, we cannot …

3, 正文段连贯性：

* **恰当使用段落连接语言**
* The major questionable assumption of the argument is that ……
* The author also hastily assumes that ……
* Before I come to my conclusion, it is necessary to discuss another underlying assumption.
* **正文段顺序：**
* 递进式论证的题目：按推理过程先后
* 并列式论证的题目：比较随意，可按原题表述顺序， 也可按问题重要性

4, 句型的使用：

5, Illustrating Methods 常用论证方式

正文段结构：

* Topic sentence
* Explanation
* Concession
* Illustration
* [ Concession ]
* Paragraphic conclusion

**Construction of template**

【Topic Sentence】One important problem involves the underlying assumption that it is the fish consumption that resulted in the low incidence of colds in East Meria.

【Explanation】 The author only points out that the two events occurred during the same period.

【Transition】 however, we all know that merely a coincidence of two events could not sufficiently demonstrate a causal relationship between them.

【Illustration】 Many other factors could also lead to the result, which might include healthier lifestyle, better environment and better weather.

【Paragraphic Conclusion】 Without ruling out above factors, we could not be convinced that fish consumption is the actual cause, and that eating more fish could effectively prevent colds.

**How to write the conclusion**

* 重申判断 (E)；
* 作出让步 (C)；
* 提出建议 (S)；
* 简单解释 (Ex)

结尾总体判断句示意

* To sum up, the conclusion lacks credibility because the evidence cited in the analysis does not lend strong support to what the arguer maintains.
* In conclusion, it would be necessary for the arguer to rule out all the above-mentioned possibilities before we could better evaluate the argument.