**Lesson 6 Arguments I：Exposition**

**Objectives:**

* Get to know Exposition genre, its purpose, stages and structures.
* Learn how to analyze and write an Exposition genre in accordance to the register (tenor, field, mode) of the text.
* Get to know and learn to use one of the most important features of EAP-- Nominalization/Use of nouns and noun groups.

**Read the following essay. Explain the stages of this exposition. Write it on the left side of each paragraph.**

**The hazards of moviegoing**

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|  | I am a movie fanatic. When friends want to know what picture won the Oscar in 1980 or who played the police chief in Jaws, they ask me. My friends, though, have stopped asking me if I want to go out to the movies. The problems in getting to the theater, the theater itself, and the behavior of some patrons are all reasons why I often wait for a movie to show up on TV. |
|  | First of all, just getting to the theater presents difficulties. Leaving a home equipped with a TV and a video recorder isn't an attractive idea on a humid, cold, or rainy night. Even if the weather cooperates, there is still a thirty-minute drive to the theater down a congested highway, followed by the hassle of looking for a parking space. And then there are the lines. After hooking yourself to the end of a human chain, you worry about whether there will be enough tickets, whether you will get seats together, and whether many people will sneak into the line ahead of you. |
|  | Once you have made it to the box office and gotten your tickets, you are confronted with the problems of the theater itself. If you are in one of the run-down older theaters, you must adjust to the musty smell of seldom-cleaned carpets. Escaped springs lurk in the faded plush or cracked leather seats, and half the seats you sit in seem loose or tilted so that you sit at a strange angle. The newer twin and quad theaters offer their own problems. Sitting in an area only one-quarter the size of a regular theater, moviegoers often have to put up with the sound of the movie next door. This is especially jarring when the other movie involves racing cars or a karate war and you are trying to enjoy a quiet love story. And whether the theater is old or new, it will have floors that seem to be coated with rubber cement. By the end of a movie, shoes almost have to be pried off the floor because they have become sealed to a deadly compound of spilled soda, hardening bubble gum, and crushed jujubes. |
|  | Some of the patrons are even more of a problem than the theater itself. Little kids race up and down the aisles, usually in giggling packs. Teenagers try to impress their friends by talking back to the screen, whistling, and making what they consider to be hilarious noises. Adults act as if they were at home in their own living rooms and comment loudly on the ages of the stars or why movies aren't as good anymore. And people of all ages crinkle candy wrappers, stick gum on their seats, and drop popcorn tubs or cups of crushed ice and soda on the floor. They also cough and burp, squirm endlessly in their seats, file out for repeated trips to the rest rooms or concession stand, and elbow you out of the armrest on either side of your seat. |
|  | After arriving home from the movies one night, I decided that I was not going to be a moviegoer anymore. I was tired of the problems involved in getting to the movies and dealing with the theater itself and some of the patrons. The next day I arranged to have cable TV service installed in my home. I may now see movies a bit later than other people, but I'll be more relaxed watching box office hits in the comfort of my own living room. |

**1. Analyze the structure of argument essays**

The following texts will be used on class. Make sure you read them several times to understand every idea and be clear about the stages of text unfolding.

**1.1 Essay 1:**

**Family responsibility: A dangerous policy**

1. Certain politicians often say they want "small government" and "individual responsibility" - in other words, they feel that people should be responsible for themselves and not rely on the government to solve their problems. Applying this idea to family policies can have significant negative consequences. It will lead to a variety of social problems, not only for the elderly themselves, but also for their families who would have to look after them.

2. The elderly themselves have a lot to lose through small-government policies. If no support services are provided, they may have to move in with their adult children. Not only will this make them feel uncomfortable about being a burden to their families, but they may also have to move away from their homes, friends and communities. In many cases, adult children have had to move to another area for work reasons, thus the grandparents may have to move a considerable distance. Relationships that may have developed over a lifetime would then be lost. Such circumstances can lead to serious problems such as depression, as well as a loss of a sense of independence.

3. Families with children would also be disadvantages by a reduction in government services for the elderly. Spending time to look after elderly family members will have an adverse effect on the family's free time, their lifestyle and possibly even their work. Further, families with children will face even greater difficulties if governments withdraw subsidized child care in the name of "small government". Firstly, without affordable child care, at least one parent would find it hard to go to work. In some cases, the grandparent may be able to help look after the children, but if the grandparent has moved in because he or she is finding it difficult to look after themselves, this may not be possible. Secondly, the resultant loss of income will lead to loss of opportunities for the whole family, including the children.

4. In conclusion, government support is clearly essential to ensure that families have opportunities and maintain an appropriate standard of living. It would be an unfortunate situation if having young children or elderly relatives caused a financial burden. That situation is clearly best avoided. Thus, government subsidies for social services that benefit the young, elderly and others not able to look after themselves, should be preserved.

**1.2 Essay 2:**

**Big government: Too much tax**

1. For the last hundred years or more, there has been a trend in many countries towards governments spending more money in ways designed not just to run the country, but to improve the lives of particular groups of people. These kinds of policies cause a number of problems that are detrimental to society as a whole. This essay will demonstrate some of these problems: it will show firstly that such "big government" policies cause an unfair tax burden on all people, not just those who benefit, and secondly that it removes incentives to work hard.

2. It is important that the taxation system is fair and equitable. This means not only that people should all pay the same amount of tax, but also that they should benefit to the same extent from what the government's tax revenue is spent on. For some items of government expenditure, such as defense of the country, this isn't difficult: everyone benefits to the same extent. However, other areas are far more problematic. If child care is subsidized, for example, that means that people without children are paying for something that only benefits those who choose to have children. Similarly, subsidized services to assist the elderly would be paid for by people who don't use them. This is clearly unfair, and also means that tax becomes higher than it would be without the subsidies.

3. It is very important for the economy that people have a strong incentive to work hard. If life is too easy and people can be comfortable without hard work, then the economy will suffer. For example, if people are able to send their children to child care at little or no cost, why would they work hard to earn extra money? It's true that child care can free up a parent's time so that they can work and thereby contribute to the economy, but for fairness, these services should be provided by private organizations. Similarly, if people know that the government will look after them in their old age, they would have no incentive to work hard during their lives to ensure that they have adequate savings and investments to last them through the later years of their lives.

4. To sum up, a fair approach to providing incentives to work hard will benefit society. Government subsidies to particular groups of people are unfair to people who are not members of those groups, and will also damage the incentives to work hard, leading to problems with the country's economy. It is important, therefore, that governments avoid such subsidies wherever possible.

**1.3 How to write a good thesis statement?**

1) A good thesis states the writer’s clearly defined opinion on some subject

2) A good thesis asserts one main idea

3) A good thesis has something worthwhile to say

4) A good essay is limited to fit the assignment

5) A good thesis is clearly stated in specific terms

6) A good thesis is easily recognized as the main idea

**Exercise**: If you were asked to write a thesis statement expressing your position on the national law that designates twenty-one as the legal minimum age to purchase or consume alcohol, which of the following thesis statement(s) would you choose and why?

1. Many people have different opinions on whether people under twenty-one should be permitted to drink alcohol, and I agree with some of them.
2. The question of whether we need a national law governing the minimum age to drink alcohol is a controversial issue in many states.
3. I want to give my opinion on the national law that sets twenty-one as the legal age to drink alcohol and the reasons I feel this way.
4. To reduce the number of highway fatalities, our country need to enforce the national law that designates twenty-one as the legal minimum age to purchase and consume alcohol.
5. The legal minimum age for purchasing alcohol should be eighteen rather than twenty-one.

**2. Nouns and nominalization in EAP**

Register involves the particular situation of a social activity with its particular participants (where, with whom, about what, how). Register occurs in all discourse and must be appropriate. For example, if you write a letter to a company complaining about a service or product, you will use a different register from writing an essay about a political or environmental issue. And, if you write a letter home to family that is a different register than if you write an email to one of your university lecturers.

Register occurs in both speaking and writing and depends upon:

**where you are**, **with whom** you are speaking or writing and **the power** you have or don't have, and, **the type of communication**: writing- emails/letters/essays/ lists/books; speaking- conversation/presenting an oral presentation/speech making/making a request. In writing, a lot of nouns and noun groups are used, whereas in speaking a lot of verbs and verb groups are used.

**3. In-class Practice**

**Exercise 1**

Compare the two articles (for example, how many verbs and nouns in each text, which is the longest sentence and how many words are involved in it)

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| Text 1 | Text 2 |
| 1. Veterinary scientists are people who practise all around the world. ②A veterinarian is a person who is like a doctor for animals. ③They help animals who are sick and/or injured to recover. ④They also perform surgery on animals and when people bring them their house pets, they save the pets' lives sometimes. ⑤There are veterinarians who look after large animals like the ones from farms and even zoo animals. ⑥Veterinarians are specialists and they have to go to school for a long time. ⑦ They have to study a very long time to be able to work as a veterinarian. ⑧In some Western countries they charge a lot of money and are able to become quite wealthy. | ①Veterinarian science is a practice around the world. ②A veterinarian assists animals form house pets to farm, zoo and even wild animals both as doctor and surgeon and is a life saver at times. ③Veterinarians become qualified after a lengthy educational process and may acquire a comfortable level of wealth. |

**Exercise 2**

Can you change the nouns or noun groups into verbs or verbal groups without changing the meaning of the text?

**Advertising and Children: Good or Bad?**

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of overweight children in recent years, leading to many health problems that usually affect older people. To improve the health of children, it is important to find out the reasons for this increase. Many factors have been put forward, but it is becoming more and more clear that one of the most important is the increased consumption of junk food by children. For example, recent research has shown that it was junk food consumption, not a reduction in exercise, that has led to an increase in childhood obesity in at least one country. There are many arguments against this from the food companies, of course, but in this essay it will be shown that there is more and more evidence that a reduction in the exposure of children to junk food advertising will mean an improvement in their health later in life.