

WRITING TRAINING

Lesson 1_argument

To write a good essay for study or just get higher scores in exams, we should first make clear the elements and structure of it, which is so similar with what we wrote during our senior high school.

First, **we need arguments**. So what is an argument? Let me set an example.

When my friends and I were planing for our graduation trip, as expected,we had disagreements. I said that I could not agree with her that she planed to go abroad. Then I made more supplements that not only would we spend more money but also we should pay great attention to the security in a completely strange surroundings.

Take what I said into consideration. I made my point (we could not go abroad) at first and then I stated my reasons(money and security). Finally, she gave up the idea.

Then we could know, **argument should include two parts: the thesis and the reasons**. The former means a clear point, such as I like this book instead of that there is a book, which means we should have the point of view, not just state or describe something. The later means why that thesis you hold is true. You should try to provide evidence about it and also try to persuade your readers, at least yourself. For example, if you'd like to express the point that you like this book, you'd better give reasons why you like when you are trying to make an argument. Reasons should be convictive like that you are fond of its plots, its writing style or you're just interested in the author or the theme. In a word, reasons should be provided forcefully and not opposite to your point.

Are those enough? Of course not. For instance, you are trying to persuade your roommate not to skip classes because it would result in many bad things, like missing important knowledge, failing to hand on homework or losing attendance scores. What should you say? Obviously, telling the items above is much better than “because I hate students who would easily skip classes”, for that your feeling is not always suitable for others. And the items of knowledge, homework and attendance scores, which means, it's not a good idea to use subjective reasons instead of something more objective to prove your points.

What we can conclude is the **reasons** we give **should be logically relative** to what we say when we make an argument. The example I mentioned IS not relative.

However, it doesn't mean that reasons with emotions or subjective feelings should never been used. For instance, if you are trying to persuade your roommate not to play computer games after lights out, of course you can tell to him/her that "because I AM SLEEPING and I AM INTERRUPTED". It is also a subject reason but totally relative, and it is cogent as well.

Take a review.

First of all, we explained that writing a qualified argumentative paper require excellent arguments. Therefore, "what is an argument" and "how to write an argument" are exceedingly necessary.

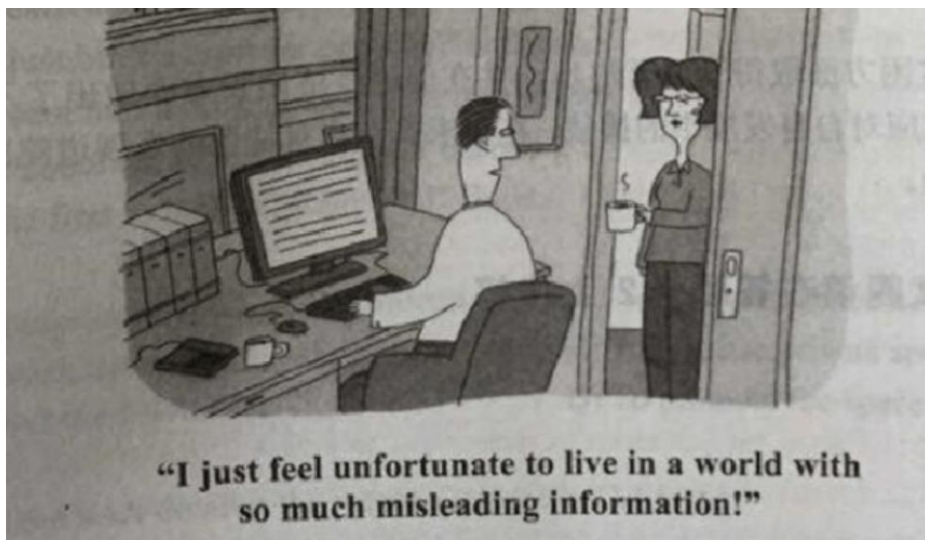
After that, we introduce the two elements of an argument, thesis and reasons, and emphasize the logical connection between them. Meanwhile, we point out that although subjective and emotional arguments are not the best choice, logical connection is the most important, which means subjective ones could be the alternative.

Let's do some practice.

Please write several complete arguments about topics bellow.(An outline is also accepted.)

1. (2021 年 6 月) A smile is the shortest distance between two people.

2.



3. Suppose you are asked to give advice on whether to attend college at home or abroad, write some arguments to state your opinion.

Reference:

唐磊等.思辨式英文写作.中国大学 MOOC.

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