**Writing Training**

**Lesson9\_evaluating**

Up to now, we have carried out a lot of critical essay-related content. However, as we emphasised at the very beginning when defining the critical essay, the characteristics of critical writing are these three: arguing for a view point, analyzing reasons and providing evidence and responding to conflicting ideas. So this lesson we’ll talk about writing counter-arguments.

First of all, what is a counter argument?It is a common 'counter' argument, where you write something that contradicts your own thesis, not to refute yourself, but to make your thesis more convincing by refuting those arguments.And the next question, how to write it in our critical essays?

The first thing we need to repeat is that responding to conflicting ideas is a necessary part of a competent critical essay; the second thing to bear in mind is that the purpose of writing counter arguments is to make one's thesis more persuasive. Both of these mean that what we need to do in counter-arguments is to 'refute', to refute the views of others. Rather than stating and repeating conflicting ideas, you need to take into account the 'other side' of a matter.

For example, if you want to argue the benefits of reading, you can't ignore the fact that it's not good for the thoughts if you only read books. So, what you need to do is to list the point and then argue it with something like "reading is the basis of this worry" rather than "of course we can't ignore the importance of practice and not just reading." The latter may seem more "dialectical", but it is certainly a rebuttal to your own thesis. Alternatively, you could use the importance of reading as a premise and emphasise the complementary role of practice to enhance the applicability of your argument without being one-sided.

Then we talk about how to evaluate our arguments. We introduced many kinds of arguments in lessons.So, to evaluate arguments is to examine whether we use them in propert ways and whether these methods are benifical to support our main thesis.If it’s an argument by priciple, we have two questions: is the principle true? Is it relevant to the theme?If it’s an argument by definition, we have two similar questions: is the definition appropriate? Is it relevant to the thesis?If it’s an argument by generalization, we have three questions: are the specific cases true? Are thry sufficient in number?are they representative enough? And ,if we use analogy,we should take these tips into consideration:the truthfulness of the analogy,the relevance to thr thesis, the quantity of similarities and the diversity of the similarities. If we use the caural relationship, we should concentrate on: the assumed cause and effect are correlated, the cause takes place before the effect and there’s no other factor leading to the effect.

Hope these tips could help you to evaluate your arguments!