

《高中英语（上外版）》选择性必修第四册Unit 2 Learning about Trade and Economy

课时：第7课时

课题：Writing

课型：Writing a summary of a problem-solution essay

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Worksheet

1. Read the essay and find the topic sentence(s) and supporting details of each paragraph.

Paragraph 1: Topic sentences: <u>Decisions in life are rarely black and white but usually involves shades of gray. Economists use the term “marginal changes” to describe minor adjustments to an existing plan of action.</u> Supporting details: (1) <u>At dinner time, the decision you face is not between fasting and eating like a pig, but whether to take that extra spoonful of mashed potatoes.</u> (2) <u>When exams roll around, your decision is not between blowing them off and studying 24 hours a day, but whether to spend an extra hour reviewing your notes instead of watching TV.</u>
Paragraph 2: Topic sentence: <u>In many situations, people make the best decision by thinking at the margin.</u> Supporting details: <u>Suppose, for instance, that you ask a friend for advice about how many years to stay in school. If he compares...is worthwhile.</u>
Paragraph 3: Topic sentence: <u>A rational decision-maker takes an action if and only if the marginal benefit of the action exceeds the marginal cost.</u>

2. Interactive activity: Read the essay again and discuss with group members to work out the problem and solution in the essay.

Rational People Think at the Margin	
Problem	<u>We often face the problem of how to make small adjustments to an existing plan.</u>
Solution	<u>People make the best thinking at the margin.</u>
Evaluation	<u>A rational decision-maker takes an action if the marginal benefits of the action exceeds the marginal cost.</u>

3. List key words ,expressions and sentences that can present the author’s view and try to paraphrase them.

key words ,expressions and sentence patterns	Paraphrased versions
minor adjustments	<u>small adjustments</u>
exceed	<u>outweigh</u>
evaluate	<u>assess</u>
Economists use the term “marginal changes” to describe minor adjustments to an existing plan of action.	<u>When small adjustments are needed in an existing plan, we often make “marginal changes”.</u>
People make the best decision by thinking at the margin.	<u>Thinking at the margin helps people make the best decisions.</u>
A rational decision-maker takes an action if and only if the marginal benefits of the action exceeds the marginal cost.	<u>Only when the marginal benefits outweigh the marginal cost will a rational individual take an action.</u>

4. Sample version: Economists use the turn “marginal changes” to describe minor adjustments to an existing plan of action. Thinking at the margin helps people make the best decisions. By comparing the marginal benefits and marginal costs, individuals can make better decisions.

Checklist for summary writing of a problem-solution essay
(N) 1. Is the problem properly stated?
(Y) 2. Is the solution properly presented?
(N) 3. Is the evaluation clearly stated?
(N) 4. Are the key words, expressions and sentences in the essay properly paraphrased?
(N) 5. Is the content of the essay accurately stated?
(Y) 6. Is the content of the essay briefly stated?
(N) 7. Is the content of the essay coherently stated?

Improvement suggestions:

The problem should be clearly stated starting with *We often face a problem of...*

The evaluation should be added.

Key words, expressions and sentences in the essay should be properly paraphrased: *Economists use the turn “marginal changes” to describe minor adjustments to an existing plan of action can be paraphrased as *When small adjustments are needed in an existing plan, we often make “marginal changes”.**

The summary should be developed coherently: *problem-solution-evaluation.*

5. Polish the summary and share the improved version with the whole class.

Improved version: We are often faced with a problem of how to make small adjustments in an existing plan of action. To make the best decisions, we need to think at the margin which involves comparing marginal benefits with marginal costs. Only when the marginal benefits outweigh the marginal costs will a rational individual take an action.

6. Homework:

1. Write a summary of a problem-solution essay, using the summary writing strategies.

2. Assess the summary with the help of the checklist and make some improvements.

Most of us—even those at the top—struggle with public-speaking anxiety. When I ask my clients what makes them nervous, invariably they respond with the same answers: “I don't like being watched”, “I don't like the eyes on me” or “I don't like being in the spotlight” .

To understand why, we need to go way back to prehistoric times, when humans regarded eyes watching us as an existential threat. Those eyes were likely predators(肉食动物) and people were terrified of being eaten alive. The bad news is that our brains have transferred the ancient fear of being watched into public speaking. In other words, public-speaking anxiety is in our DNA.

Fortunately, there is a solution: human generosity. The key to disarming our panic button is to turn the focus away from ourselves and toward helping the audience. Studies have shown that an increase in generosity indeed leads to a decrease in amygdala(扁桃腺) activity, which is responsible for our panic feeling in the brain. When we are kind to others, we overcome the sense of being under attack and start to feel less nervous.

Admittedly, this is hard to do. But it's absolutely possible to become a generous speaker. To begin with, when you start preparing for a presentation, the mistake you often make is starting with the topic. Instead, you should start with the audience. Identify the audience's needs, and craft a message that speaks directly to those needs. Also, you are the most nervous right before you speak. This is the moment when your brain is telling you, “Everyone is judging me.” But it is exactly the moment when you should refocus your brain. Over time, your brain will begin to get it, and you will become less nervous.

Possible version: Many people have public-speaking anxiety because they fear being watched. The reason dates back to prehistoric times when humans regarded eyes watching them as those of the predators that would eat them. To solve the problem, people should be generous to the audience. They should speak directly to the audience's needs and refocus their brain before speaking.