

考试题材诚信作文的四个常见误区：附自查清单

考试题材的诚信作文，批改时最常见的四个误区，几乎每篇都要踩中两个。它们有个共同根源：作者把诚信当成结果来写，而不是把挣扎当成过程来写。结果只需要一句话，过程才需要五百字。下面逐个拆，每个误区给一个改法，最后附一份自查清单。

误区一：把挣扎写成决心。文里写我犹豫了一下，最终还是决定不作弊，做一个诚实的孩子。犹豫了一下四个字把全文最值钱的部分报销了。改法：把犹豫拆开，按眼睛、身体、念头三拍写。眼睛看见了什么，身体哪一处僵住了，心里的两句话各说什么。拆开后你会发现根本不用写决定，笔停在半空的时候，读者自然知道接下来可能发生什么。

误区二：心理描写变成总结句。我进行了激烈的思想斗争，诚信的种子在我心中生根发芽，这类句子看着像心理描写，其实是作者在替读者总结。总结句一出，过程立刻死亡。改法：心里的念头要用大白话写，短到像真的在耳朵里响。看一眼就会了，和看了这题还是我的吗，两句大白话顶得上十句思想斗争。写完检查一遍，凡是出现斗争、生根、发芽这类词，全部删掉换成具体的两句话。

误区三：老师和同学沦为道具。监考老师恰好走开，同桌恰好把答案露出来，老师事后恰好表扬我诚实。巧合一多，作文就成了剧本。改法：同桌的卷子不是故意露的，它本来就摆在那个位置；老师根本不知道发生过什么，全文可以不出现老师。诚信这件事的观众只有自己，观众越少，戏越真。

误区四：结尾强行升华。最后写诚信比分数重要，这次考试我交上了两份答卷，一份给老师一份给良心。前文挣扎写得再好，这种结尾一出来全文就轻了。改法：结尾写挣扎之后的余波，一个身体感觉加一个反常的小事实。风是凉的，我没吹自己全对，这两样东西摆出来，道理读者自己会得出。作者越忍住不说，结尾越重。

自查清单五步：第一步，数挣扎的字数，瞄向同桌前后那一段有没有超过150字，没有就补。第二步，搜斗争、决定、懂得三个词，出现就删，换成念头原话。第三步，数巧合，老师和同学的恰好出现两次以上就删到零。第四步，读结尾，出现比字句和两份答卷式比喻就重写，只留身体感觉加反常事实。第五步，全文数一遍字数，480到540之间停手。五步走完通常要改两遍，第二遍一般只剩一两处。这个清单同样适用于捡到钱交公、比赛想要小聪明这类题材，因为四个误区全都长在同一个根上：只写了结果，没写过程。

Four Common Pitfalls in Exam-Themed Honesty Essays: With a Self-Check List

Four pitfalls appear in nearly every marked copy of exam-themed honesty essays, and almost every draft steps in two of them. They share one root: the writer treats honesty as a result to report instead of a struggle to narrate. A result needs one sentence; a process needs five hundred. Here they are one by one, each with a fix, and a self-check list at the end.

Pitfall one: turning the struggle into a resolution. The essay writes I hesitated a moment and finally decided not to cheat, to be an honest child. The phrase hesitated a moment writes off the most valuable part of the whole essay. Fix: take the hesitation apart into three beats, eyes, body, thoughts. What the eyes saw, which part of the body froze, what each of the two inner sentences says. Once taken apart you will find no decision needs writing at all; when the pen hangs in mid-air, the reader already knows what might happen next.

Pitfall two: psychology turns into summary sentences. Lines like I went through a fierce ideological struggle, or the seed of honesty took root in my heart, look like psychological description but are the author summarizing for the reader. Once a summary appears, the process dies instantly. Fix: write the inner thoughts in plain speech, short enough to sound like they really ring in the ear. One glance and it is solved, versus if you looked is it still yours, two plain lines outweigh ten lines of ideological struggle. After writing, search for words like struggle, take root, sprout; delete every one and replace it with two concrete sentences.

Pitfall three: teachers and classmates reduced to props. The proctor happens to step away, the deskmate happens to expose the answers, the teacher happens to praise my honesty afterward. Too many coincidences and the essay becomes a staged script. Fix: the deskmate's paper was not exposed on purpose, it simply sat where it sat; the teacher never knows what happened, and the teacher need not appear at all. The only audience of honesty is oneself, and the fewer the audience, the truer the scene.

Pitfall four: forcing an uplifting ending. The essay closes with honesty matters more than scores, or this exam I handed in two answer sheets, one to the teacher and one to my conscience. However good the struggle was, this ending makes the whole essay weightless. Fix: let the ending hold the aftermath of the struggle, one bodily sensation plus one small contrary fact. The wind was cool, I did not brag I got everything right, set these two out and the reader draws the lesson alone. The more the author holds back from saying it, the heavier the ending.

The five-step self-check list. Step one, count the words of the struggle: does the passage around glancing at the deskmate exceed 150 words; if not, add. Step two, search for the words struggle, decided, and I learned; delete each and replace it with the thoughts' own words. Step three, count the coincidences: if happens appears more than twice with teachers or classmates, cut it to zero. Step four, read the ending: if a comparison sentence or a two-answer-sheets metaphor appears, rewrite it with only a bodily sensation plus a contrary fact. Step five, count the whole essay and stop between 480 and 540. The five steps usually take two passes, and the second pass typically leaves only one or two spots. This list also fits essays on handing in found money or cheating cleverly in a contest, because all four pitfalls grow from the same root: only the result was written, not the process.