

**NAGOYA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY WORKSHOPS 2016**



# **Academic Writing** *and* **Logical Thinking**

May 18 ~ June 15, 2016

Instructor: Dr. Paul Lai

# NAGOYA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY WORKSHOPS 2016



## Review



**Writing is a process of  
communicating thoughts  
through the arrangement of texts**

*All academic writers are required to know*

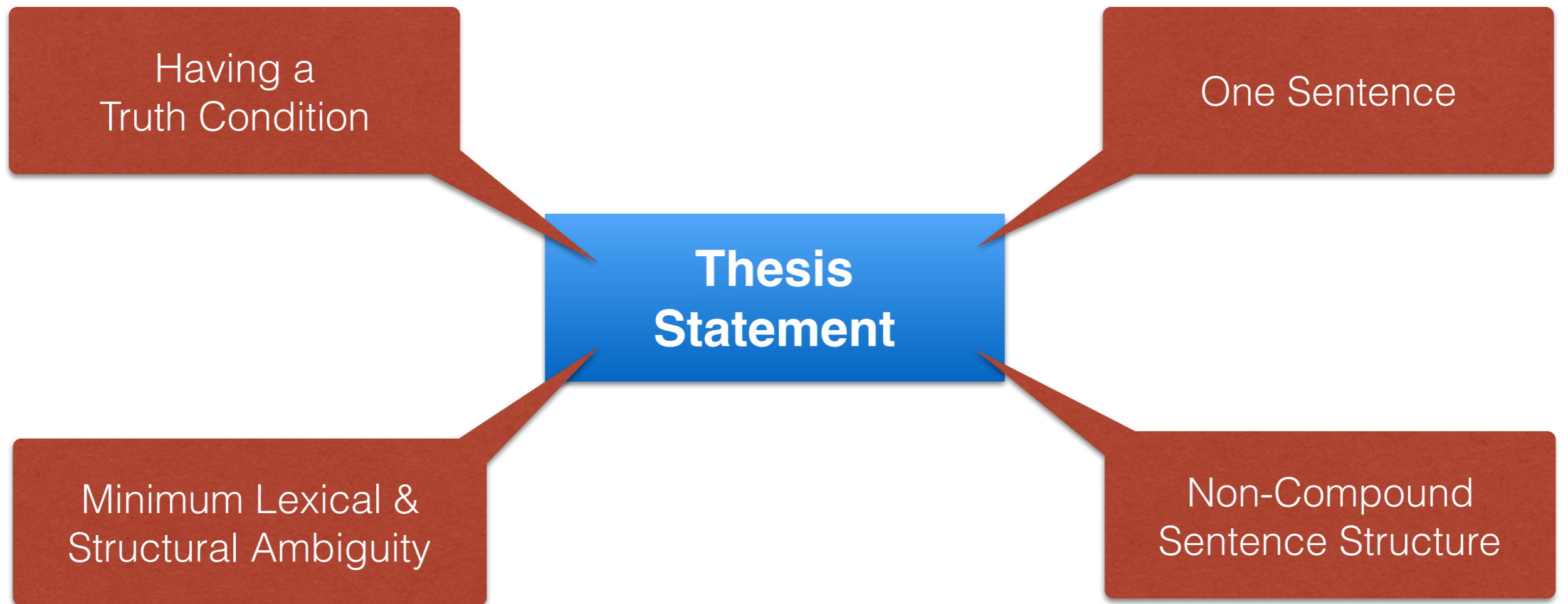
## **The Writing Requirement**

How **words** can be properly arranged to express the ideas.

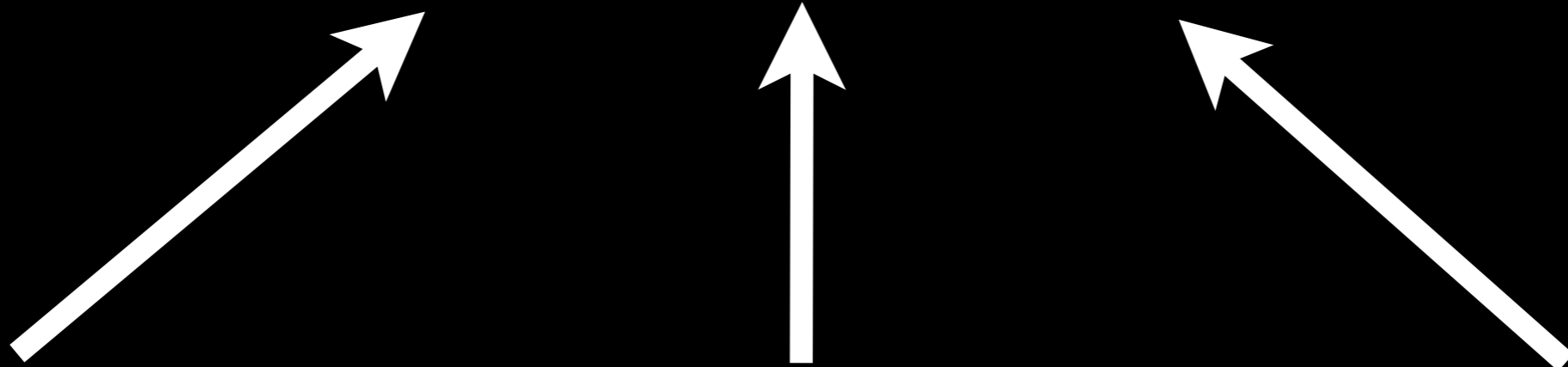
## **The Thinking Requirement**

How **ideas** can be properly arranged so that they can be properly expressed through words in a clear & convincing manner.

# Being Clear



**Thesis Statement**



**Support 1**



**Support 2**



**Support 3**

學術論文の基本的な目的は、結論へと至る論理的ステップを提示することによって、論文の主張する結論を受け入れるよう読者を説得することである。

# Logical Relation

WRITING  
教養教育院

學術論文の基本的な目的は、結論へと至る論理的ステップを提示することによって、論文の主張する結論を受け入れるよう読者を説得することである。

# Inferential Relation

WRITING  
教養教育院



**INFERENCE  
RELATION**

**Statement 1**

**True**

e.g. Peter is in Tokyo.



**Statement 2**

**True**

e.g. Peter is in Japan.

**INFERENCE  
RELATION**

**Statement 2**

**False**

e.g. Peter is in Japan.



**Statement 1**

**False**

e.g. Peter is in Tokyo.

学術論文の基本的な目的は、結論へと至る論理的ステップを提示することによって、論文の主張する結論を受け入れるよう読者を説得することである。

**The truth/falsity of statement 1**  
**affects**  
**the truth/falsity of statement 2**

**Fun Exercise!!**  
**Solving Logical Puzzles**

**Puzzle 1:**

**Who is doing what?**

Alonzo, Kurt, Rudolf, and Willard are four creative artists of great talent. One is a dancer, one is a painter, one is a singer, and one is a writer, though not necessarily in that order.

- (1) Alonzo and Rudolf were in the audience the night the singer made his debut on the concert stage.
- (2) Both Kurt and the writer have had their portraits painted from life by the painter.
- (3) The writer, whose biography of Willard was a best-seller, is planning to write a biography of Alonzo.
- (4) Alonzo has never heard of Rudolf.

**What is each man's artistic field?**



## (Homework)

(i) Think about a paper that you are planning to write.

(ii) Develop a thesis statement for the paper.

(iii) Presenting your thesis statement on June 15.

# *The Thesis Statement Recipe*

*Textbook for  
the Nagoya University Library workshop series on  
Academic Writing & Logical Thinking Skills*



*Written by  
Paul W. L. Lai, Ph.D  
Director, Nagoya University Writing Center  
(Mei-Writing)*



**How to build a  
preliminary  
thesis statement:**

*Practical Steps*

# Step 1

Find a **noun or noun phrase** that can best describe the main topic of your research paper.

For example,

**human mind**

# Step 2

Build a **Sentence** based on the noun or noun phrase by adding a verb or predicate.

For example,

**Human mind is like a computer.**

# Step 3

Turn the sentence into a **Question** that is of interest to you.

For example,

**Why is human mind like a computer?**

# Step 4

**Give a Hypothetical Answer to the question.**

For example,

**Human mind is like a computer in many ways. But basically, they are the same in how they process symbol-like representations such as “2”, “=”, etc. Both of them are sensitive only to the syntactic properties, but not the semantic properties, of the symbols.**

# Step 5

Summarize the answer into just **One Sentence**.

For example,

**Human mind is like a computer in the way they process symbol-like representations.**

# Step 6

Modify the sentence until it expresses a clear relation between the sentence's **Subject and Predicate**.

For example,

**Human mind and computer are basically the same in the way they process symbol-like representations.**

# Step 7

Highlight and eliminate the **Ambiguities** found in the sentence.

For example,

**Human mind** and **computer** are **basically the same**  
in the way they process **symbol-like**  
**representations.**



**Human thinking and computational operations work in basically the same way when they process linguistic symbols.**

**A Preliminary Thesis Statement is formed!!**

# Group Work

**Build a  
preliminary thesis statement  
based on the following keyword**

**Education**

**Thank you very much!**

*Writing Is Thinking*