Workshop series on Academic Writing & Logical Thinking at the library 2017 1st Workshop – Why it is important to think logically for your writing By Dr. Paul W. L. Lai

<u>1. Writing and Thinking</u>

Writing, especially academic writing, is essentially a process of communicating thoughts by means of the use of some written words. Accordingly, in order to write well, you are required to know not only how the words can be properly arranged to express the thoughts, but also how the thoughts can be properly arranged so that they can be communicated to the readers in a clear and convincing manner. Education on academic writing, therefore, should teach not only how to properly use a language in an academic paper, but also how to think clearly and convincingly.

2. The Logical Writing Process Cycle

The Logical Writing Process Cycle, or LWPC, is the key to understanding how to bridge the gap between writing and thinking. The highly original pedagogy was designed specifically to integrate the training of logical thinking skills into academic writing.

It is composed of four cyclical stages.

Stage 1 is to develop a central research idea that can be clearly expressed in just one sentence.

Stage 2 is to develop a logical argument based on the idea through finding the premise or premises that can provide a convincing support for the idea.

Stage 3 integrates the outcomes of stage 1 and 2 into a succinct logical structure of the paper that specifies the research's motivation, main task, method, and results.

Stage 4 is a detailed elaboration of stage 3, which covers a detailed

explanation about (i) why the research was carried out (Introduction section), (ii) how the research was carried out (Method sections), what was found in the research (Results and Discussion sections), (iii) how the future research might proceed from here (Conclusion section).

