

**NAGOYA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY WORKSHOPS 2017**



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

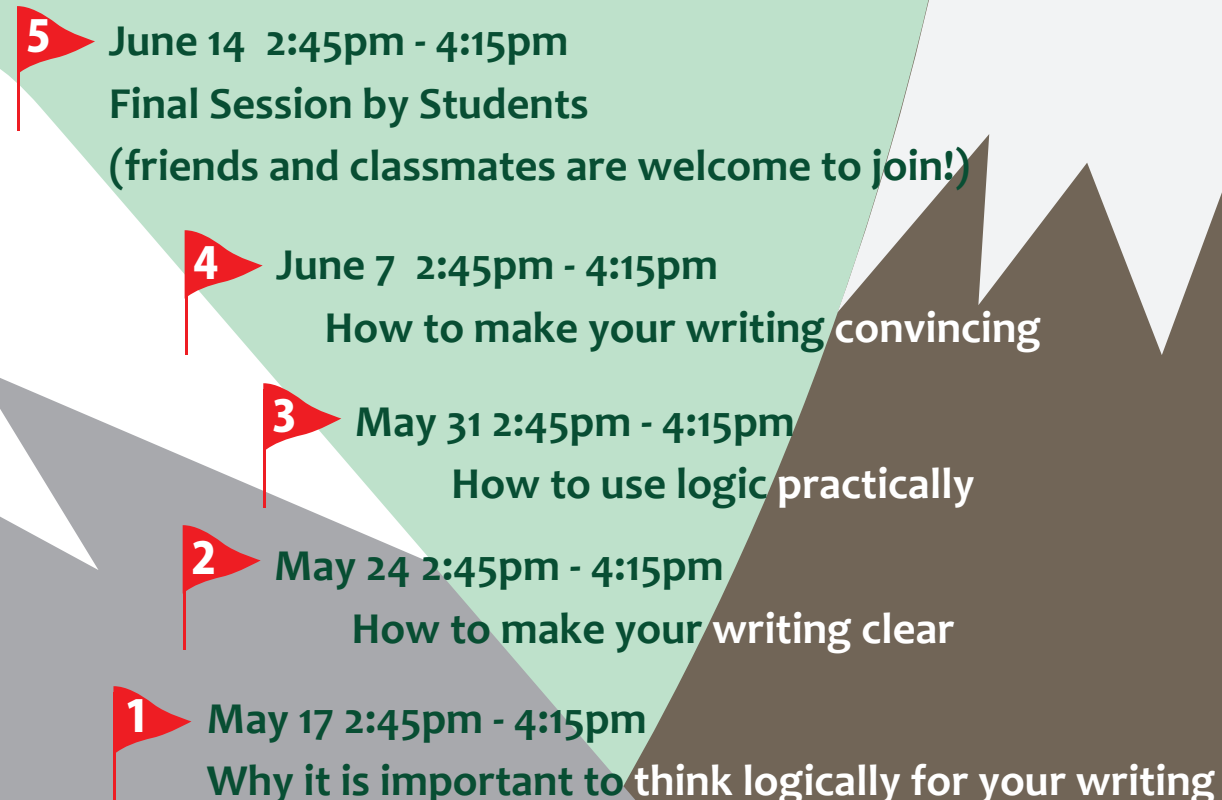
May 17 ~ June 14, 2017

Instructor: Dr. Paul Lai

Nagoya University Library Workshops in 2017 

# Academic Writing and Logical Thinking Skills

After completing all the workshops,  
you will be given a Certificate of Completion!

- 
- 1 May 17 2:45pm - 4:15pm  
Why it is important to think logically for your writing
  - 2 May 24 2:45pm - 4:15pm  
How to make your writing clear
  - 3 May 31 2:45pm - 4:15pm  
How to use logic practically
  - 4 June 7 2:45pm - 4:15pm  
How to make your writing convincing
  - 5 June 14 2:45pm - 4:15pm  
Final Session by Students  
(friends and classmates are welcome to join!)

**Instructor: Paul Lai, Ph.D**

**Director, Nagoya University Writing Center (Mei-Writing)**

**At: Multipurpose Room (Central Library)**  
**Target: All students of Nagoya University**

Contact: Nagoya University Central Library  
Tel: 052-789-3679 E-mail: sanko@nul.nagoya-u.ac.jp  
<http://www.nul.nagoya-u.ac.jp/guide/literacy/guidance.html#writing>

The venue  
has changed!



Reservation



Nagoya University Library  
Certificate of Completion

This is to certify that

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has successfully completed a series of workshops on

*Academic Writing  
and  
Logical Thinking Skills*

Date June 15, 2016

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Director,  
Nagoya University Library

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Director,  
Nagoya University Writing Center  
(Mei-Writing)



# *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)*



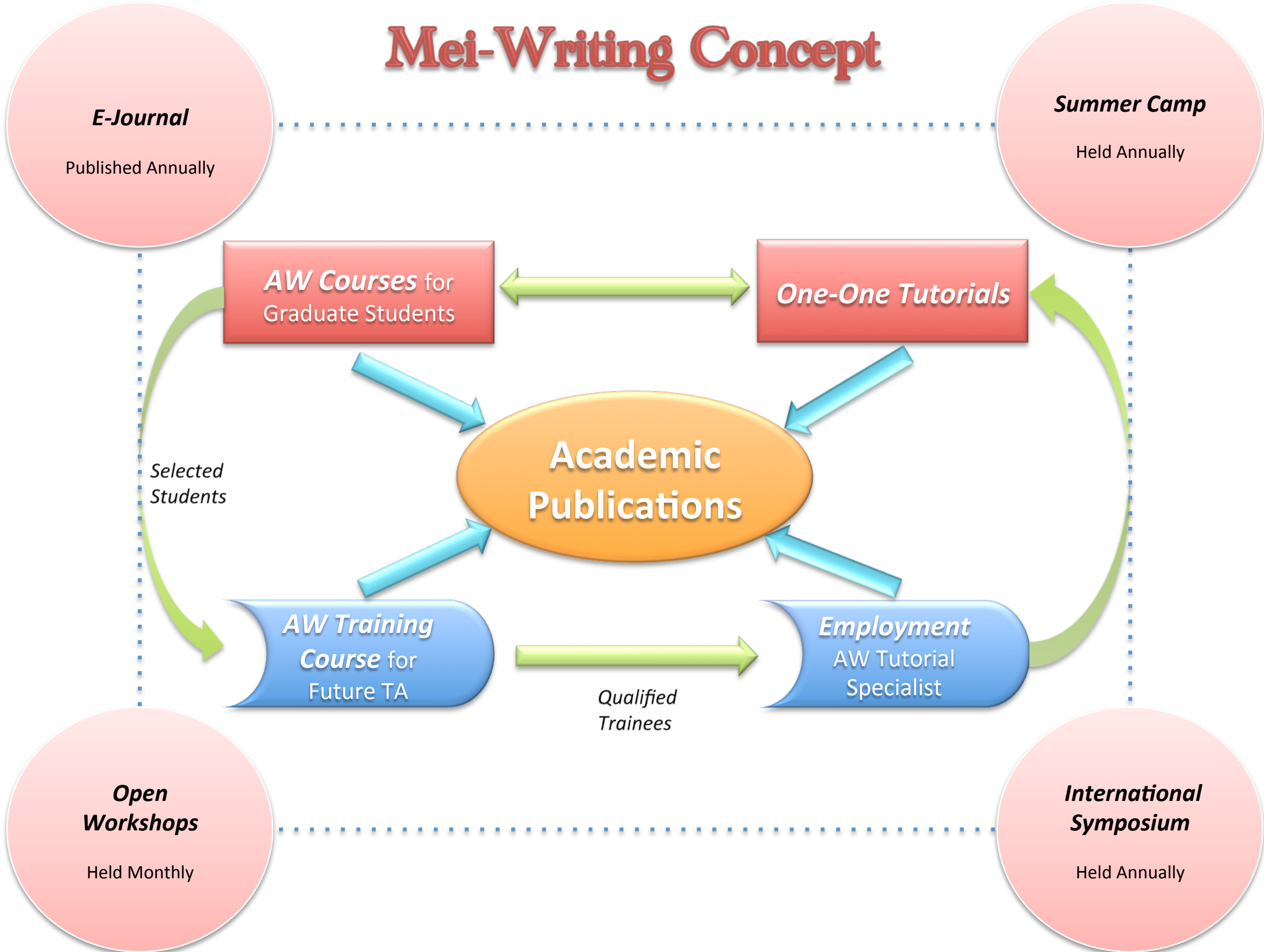
# Nagoya University Writing Center

*Pursuing Clear & Convincing Ideas in Writing*

Department of Academic Writing Education  
Institute of Liberal Arts and Sciences, NU

# Mei-Writing

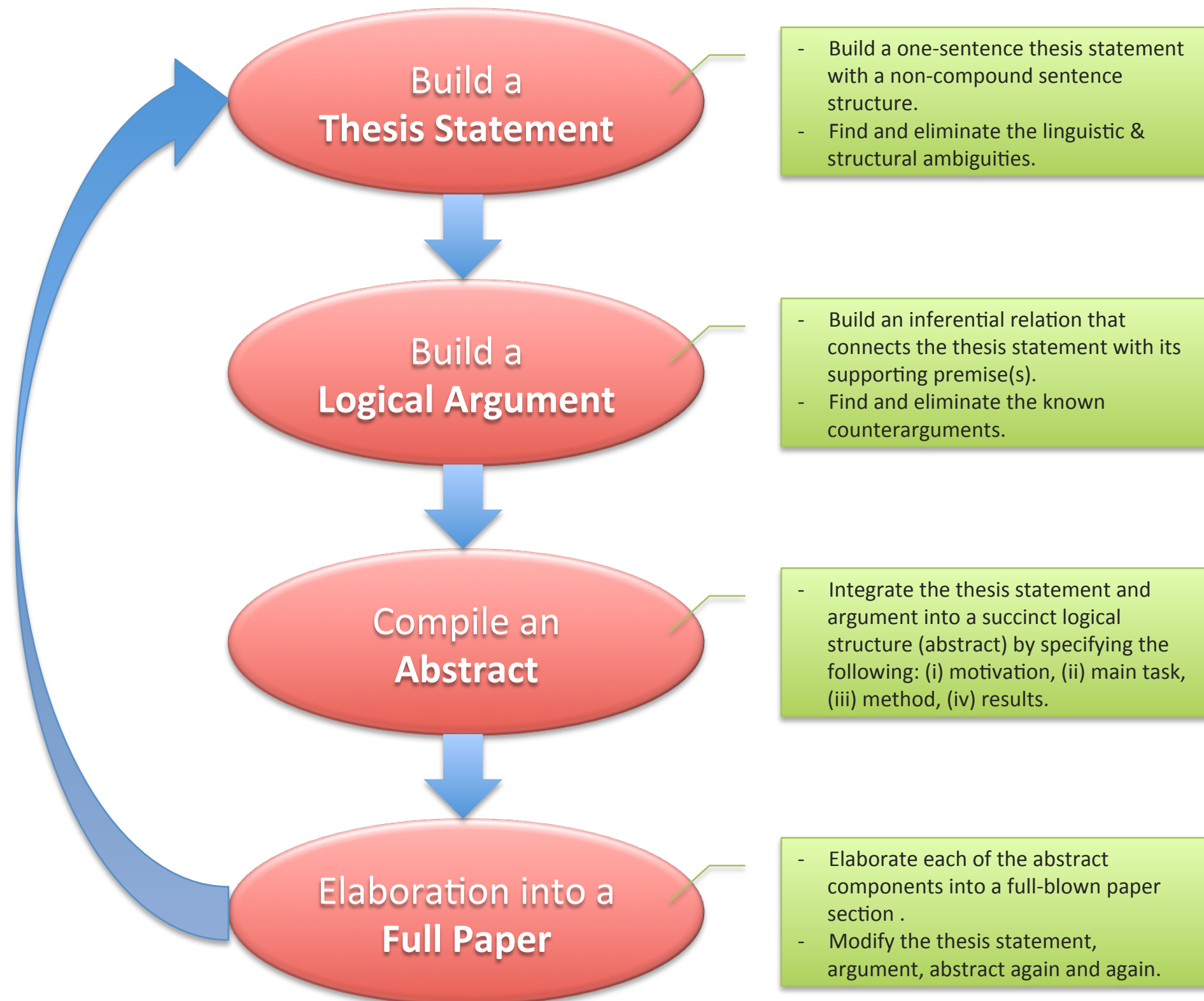
# Mei-Writing Concept





# The Logical Writing Process Cycle

By Paul W. L. Lai Copyright 2015





**Why is it important to  
think logically for  
academic writing?**



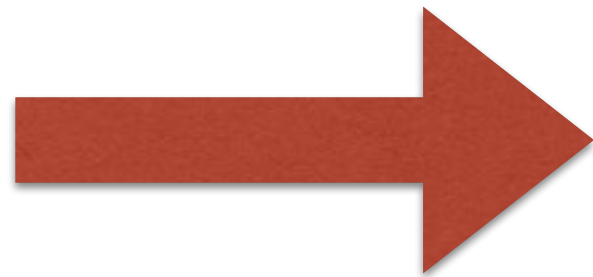
texts

**Vs**

thoughts

*texts* **express** *thoughts*

"Dog"





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



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

There is a dog.

There is a dog  
because today is Wednesday.



Peter is in Nagoya  
because  
he has a house in Nagoya.

Which one of the following is convincing?

Peter was here earlier  
*because*  
his footprints were here.

Peter was here earlier  
*because*  
his shoes were here.

## What is “convincing”?

According to Oxford Dictionary of English, “convincing” means the following:

***capable of causing someone to believe that something is true***

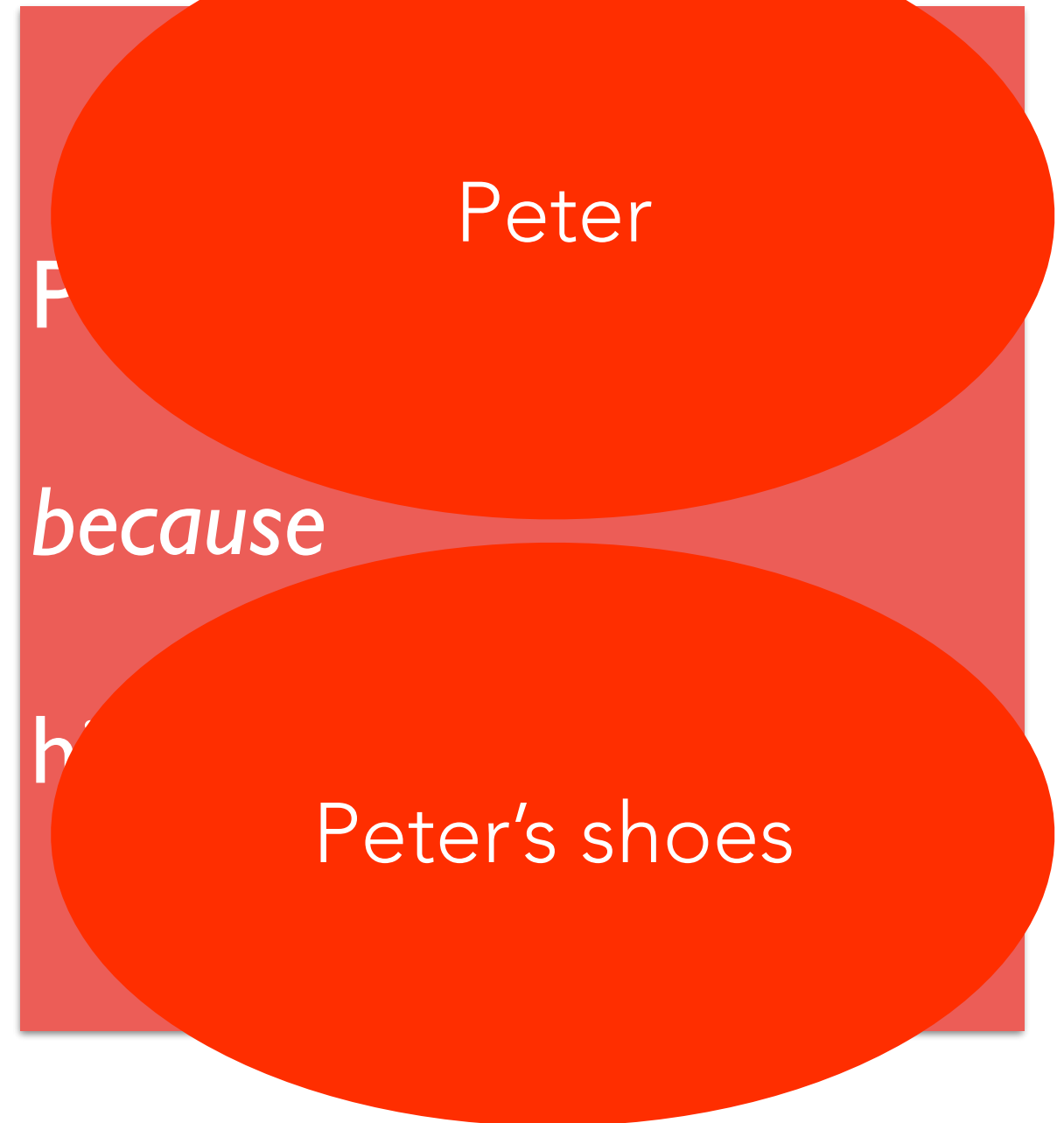
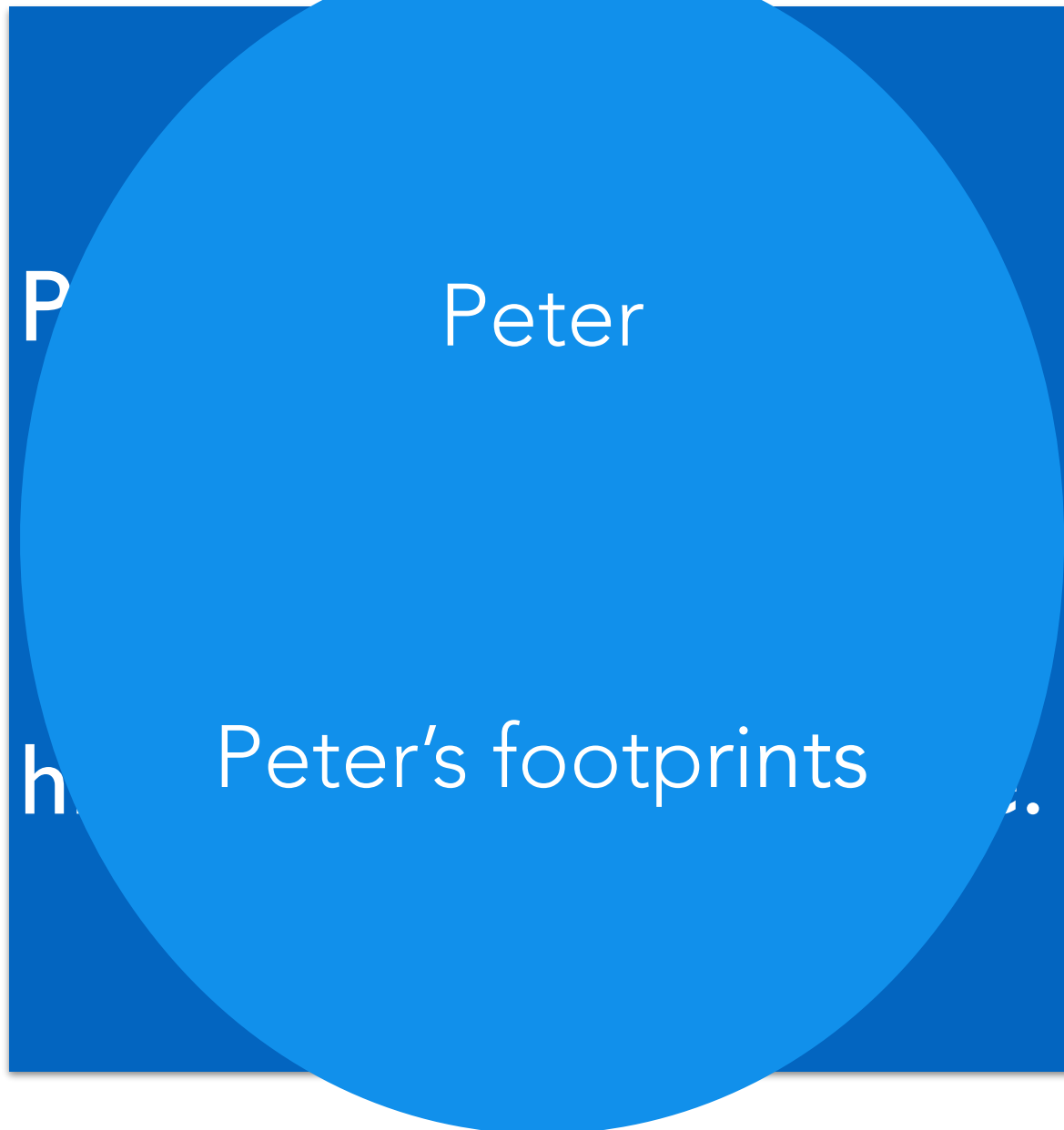
*Thus, to make X convincing is to have the capability of causing someone to believe that X is true.*

Which one of the following is convincing?

Peter was here earlier  
*because*  
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Peter was here earlier  
*because*  
his shoes were here.

Which one of the following is convincing?



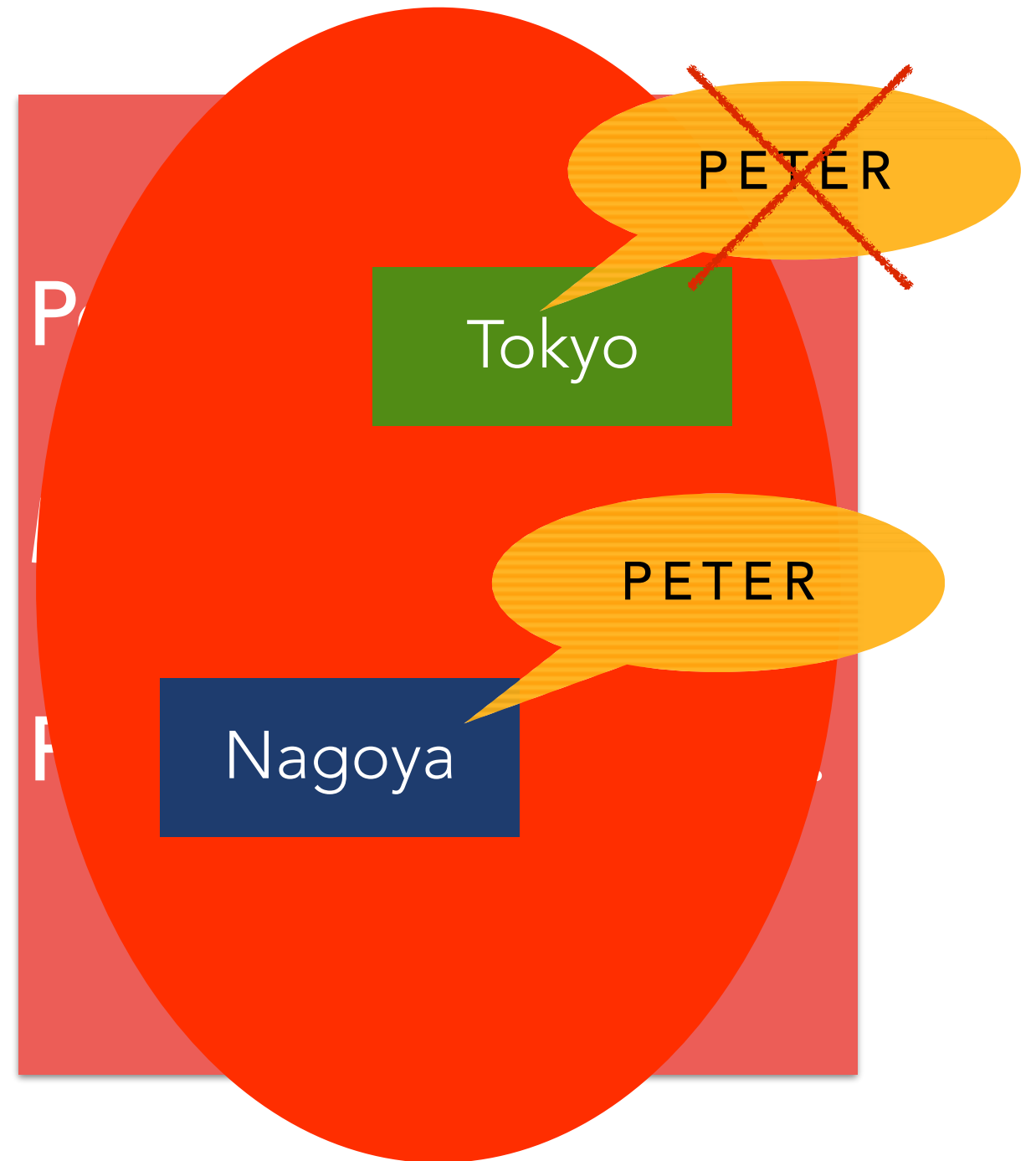
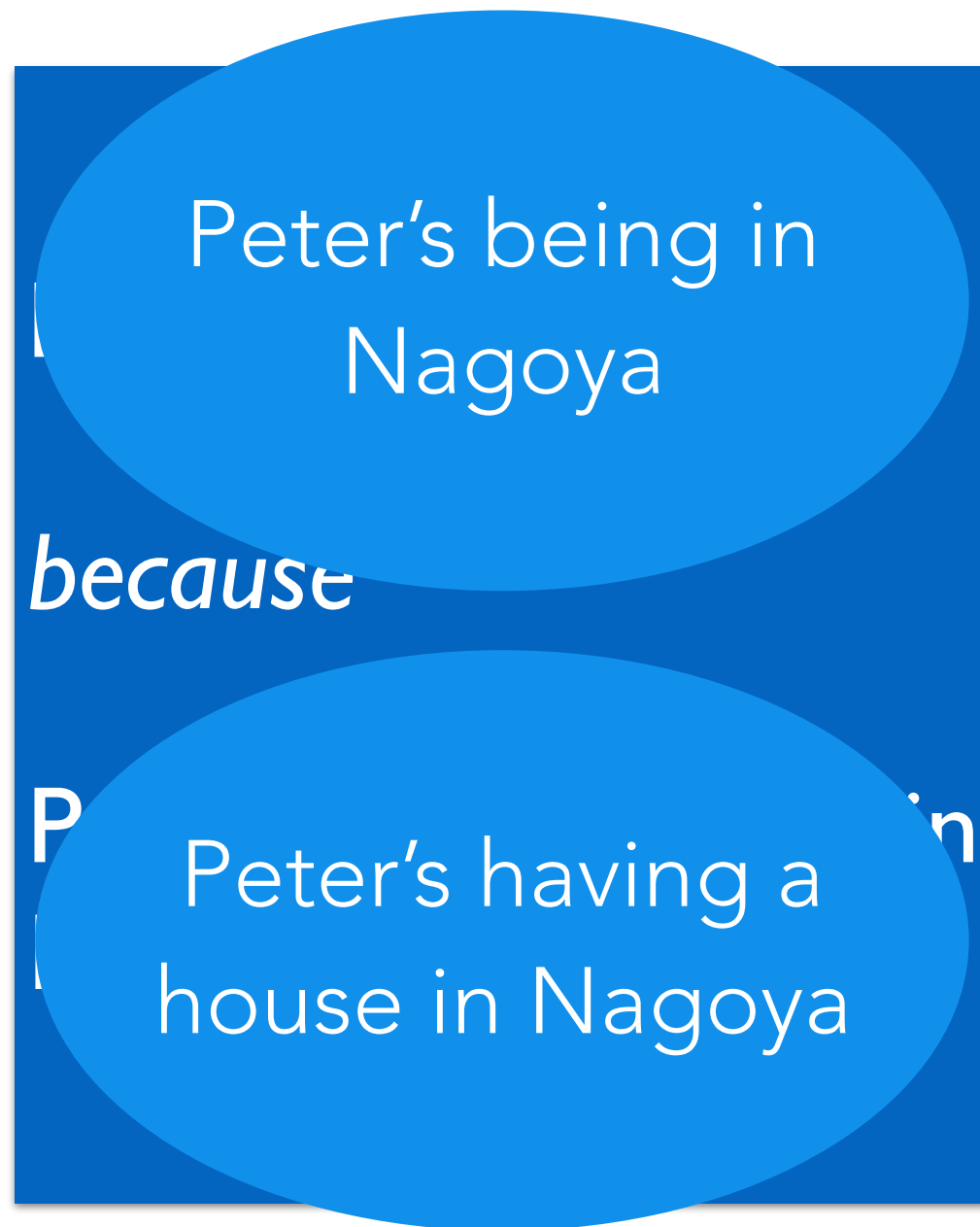
Which one of the following is convincing?

Peter was here earlier  
*because*  
his footprints were here.

Peter was here earlier  
*because*  
his shoes were here.



Which one of the following is convincing?



Which one of the following is convincing?

Peter is in Nagoya.

*because*

Peter has a house in  
Nagoya.

Peter is in Nagoya.

*because*

Peter is not in Tokyo.

*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.



# Main point of my talk

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。

**Training of logical thinking skills  
is needed in order for your thoughts  
to be communicated properly  
in an academic paper.**

WRITING  
教養教育院



# What is Academic Writing?

Study the following paragraphs, and give us your opinion:

Peter Brown lives with his wife and three children in Brighton. He works as a ticket salesman at the Odean Cinema from Monday to Saturday, between 9:00 and 18:00. He also has a part-time job at a local pub between 20:00 and 24:00 during the weekdays.

Every morning before he goes to work, Peter drives his children to school, and his wife to work. During lunchtime he usually has lunch with his wife. And after the daytime work, Peter always goes to pick up the kids from school before he starts the evening job at the pub.



## The modified version

*Peter Brown, who lives with his wife and three kids in Brighton, is a devoted family man.*

*He spends most of his time for work in order to earn enough for a family of five. He works as a ticket salesman at the Odean Cinema from Monday to Saturday, between 9:00 and 18:00. But the income as a ticket salesman is not enough to pay off the mortgage of the family house and tuitions of his three kids, so he also takes a part-time job between 20:00 and 24:00 during the weekdays.*

*Whenever he has spare time, Peter always spends it for the family. Every morning before he goes to work, Peter drives his children to school, and his wife to work. During lunchtime he usually has lunch with his wife. And after the daytime work, Peter always goes to pick up the kids from school before he starts the evening job at the pub.*

## The modified version

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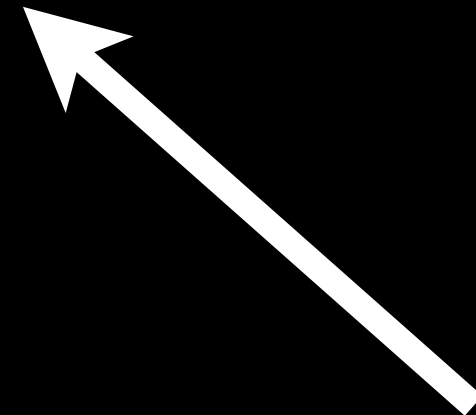
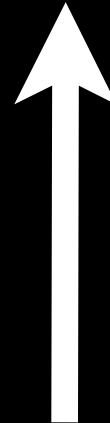
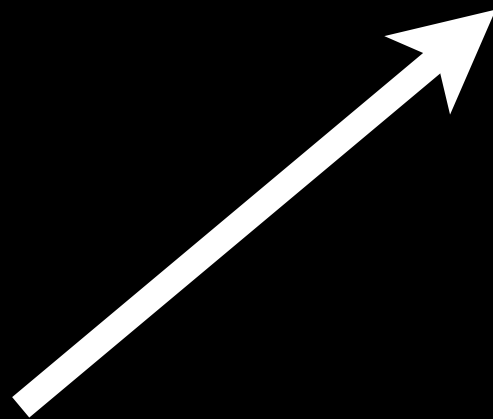
*Whenever he has spare time, Peter always spends it for the family.* Every morning before he goes to work, Peter drives his children to school, and his wife to work. During lunchtime he usually has lunch with his wife. And after the daytime work, Peter always goes to pick up the kids from school before he starts the evening job at the pub.

**Thesis Statement**

**Support 1**

**Support 2**

**Support 3**



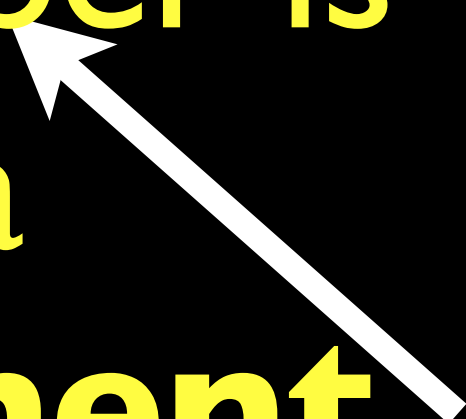
**Conclusion**

An academic paper is  
essentially a  
logical argument

**Premise 1**

**Premise 2**

**Premise 3**



Try to make the following reason convincing:

**Peter cannot come to school today  
because his car broke down.**

Peter cannot come to school today



his car broke down



Peter cannot come to school today

HOW TO CONNECT THE TWO?

his car broke down

Peter's car broke down

+

Peter needs to come to school by car

+

No other car is available

+

Peter's car cannot be repaired

+

Impossible to get a new car



Peter cannot come to school today



# Main point of my talk

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。

**Training of logical thinking skills is needed in order for the paper's thesis statement to be **convincing**.**

WRITING  
教養教育院

**Main Research Idea** ↔ **Support (e.g. evidence)**

Abstract

Introduction

Others



## (Homework)

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

(ii) Develop a thesis statement for the paper.

(iii) Discuss your thesis statement on June 14.

Try to make the following reason convincing:

**Peter cannot submit the assignment on Monday because his computer broke down on Saturday.**



THIRD  
EDITION

# THE Craft OF Research

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LOGIC



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**Thank you very much!**

*Writing Is Thinking*