

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

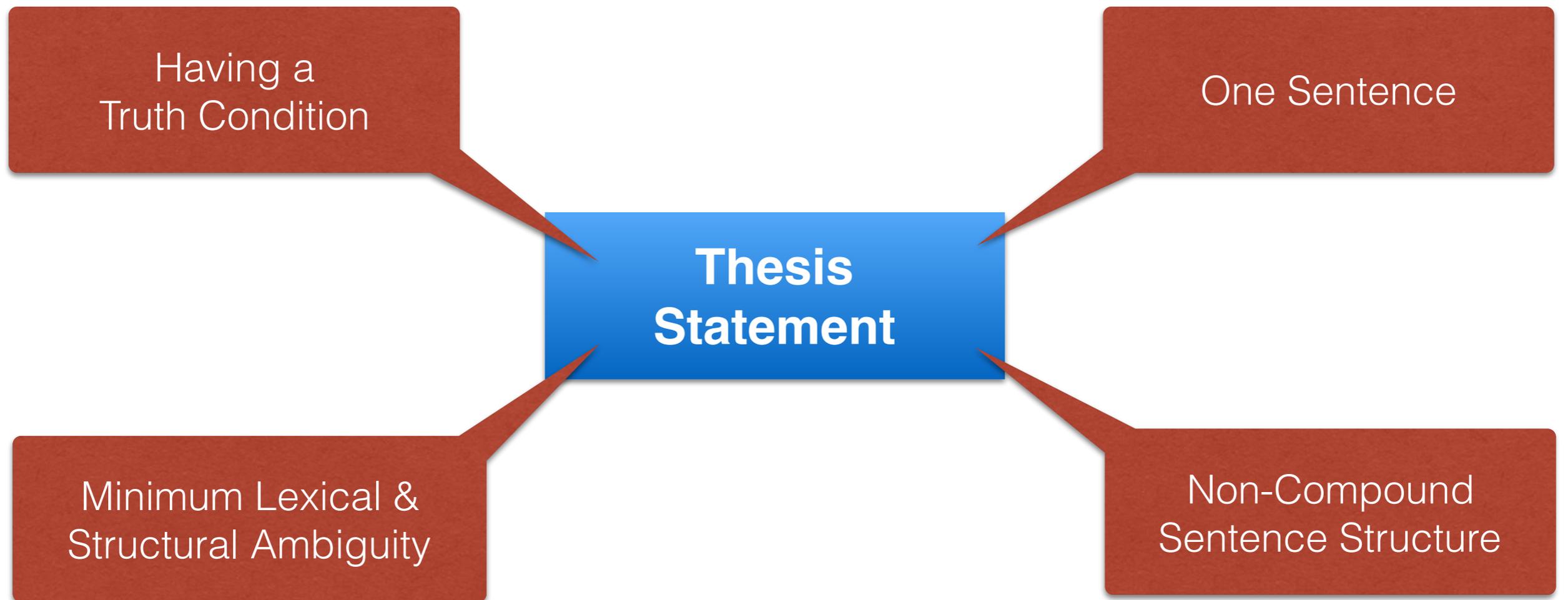
The Writing Requirement

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

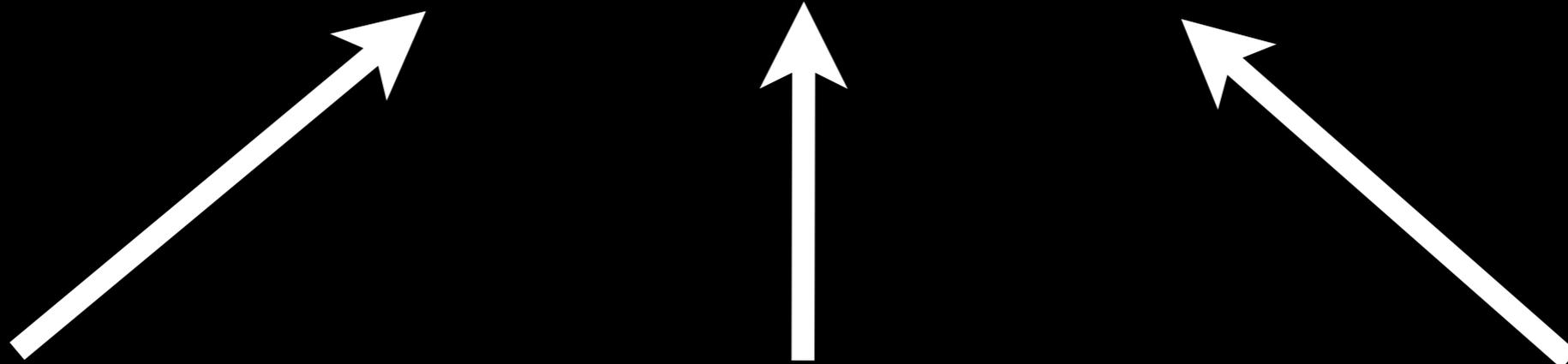
The Thinking Requirement

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
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Inferential Relation

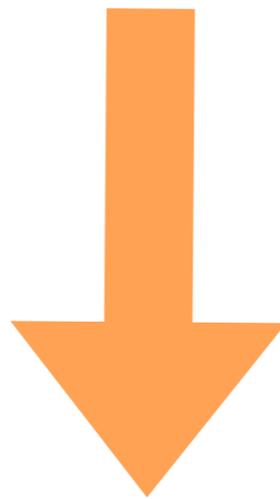
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**INFERENCE
RELATION**

Statement 1

True

e.g. Peter is in Tokyo.



Statement 2

True

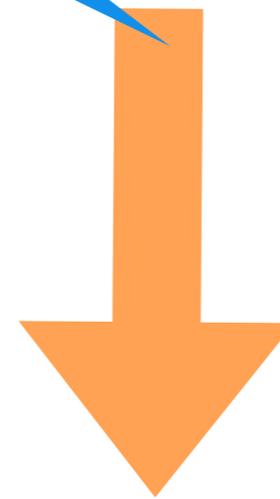
e.g. Peter is in Japan.

**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