

LIBRARY WORKSHOPS ON ACADEMIC WRITING

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。

Academic Writing

&

Logical Thinking

WRITING
教養教育院

October 15, 2014

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What is a Dissertation?

A dissertation is a final year project that must be carried out by each of you independently!

It is one kind of research writings.

Your dissertation must demonstrate the following two major achievements in order to be satisfactory:

(i) You have acquired, over a four-year period of undergraduate studies, the requisite knowledge in the academic discipline you have chosen.

(ii) You have developed, based on the knowledge acquired, an original point of view in a particular area of interest you chose to focus on.

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**What is a
dissertation's
ultimate goal?**

Besides demonstrating your overall intellectual and management skills, the ultimate goal of writing a dissertation is to convince your professors, through logical argumentation, to accept the original point of view you have developed based on the knowledge acquired.

Besides demonstrating your overall intellectual and management skills, the ultimate goal of writing a dissertation is to **convince** your professors, **through logical argumentation**, to accept the original point of view you have developed based on the knowledge acquired.

**Why is it important
to write a dissertation?**

- (i) Graduation
- (ii) Postgraduate studies
- (iii) Job interviews
- (iv) Develop self-learning ability

**What are the major
difficulties?**

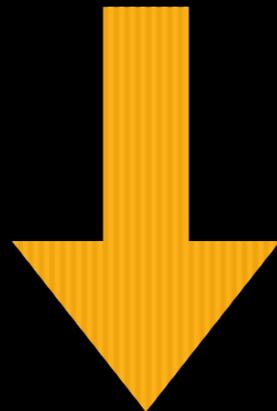
- (i) Time management
- (ii) Developing an original research idea
- (iii) Providing a convincing support for the idea.

**Applying
logical thinking
to research writing**

Logical Thinking Skills

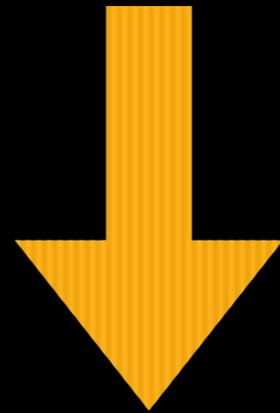


Dissertation

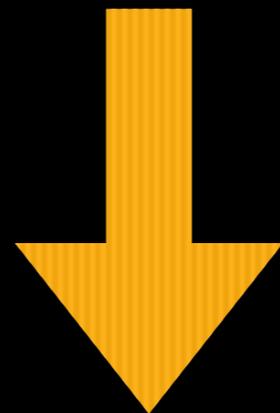


Graduation

Logical Thinking Skills



Clear & Convincing Paper

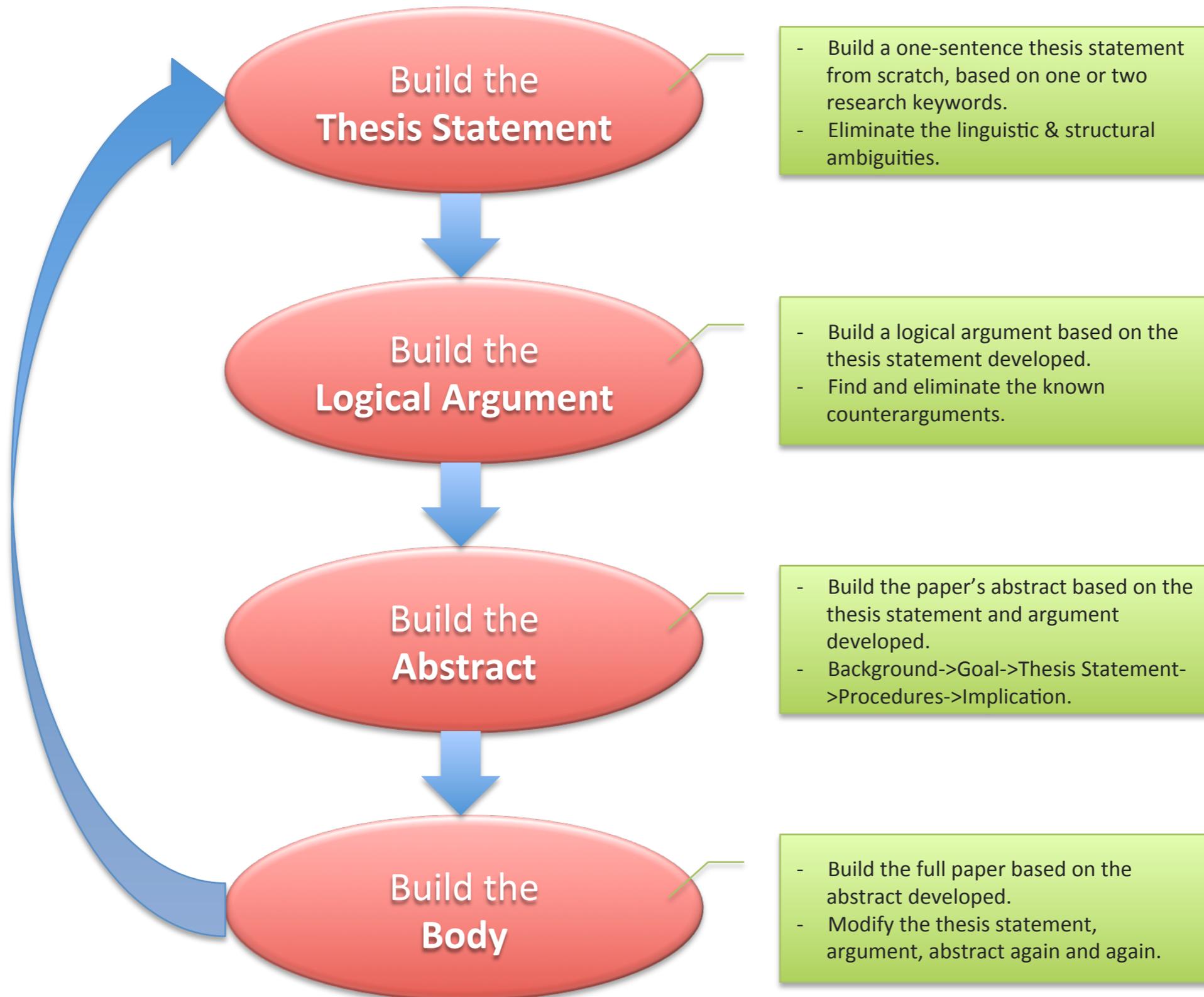


Graduation

What is a **Clear & Convincing** paper?

A paper with a (clear) **Thesis Statement**
and a (convincing) **Logical Argument**
for the statement.

The Logical Writing Process Cycle



**Why is logical thinking
training important?**

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.

But *how* to make X "convincing"?

Try doing this exercise:

Find out which one of the premises (1) ~ (5) helps to make the conclusion (C) convincing. Note that additional premise or premises will be needed in order to make C fully convincing.

C: Peter is in Nagoya.

- (1) Peter loves Nagoya castle.
- (2) Peter bought a house in Nagoya.
- (3) Peter only wants to be in Nagoya.
- (4) Peter has a girlfriend in Nagoya.
- (5) Peter is not in Tokyo.

The key lies in

**An Inferential Relation
between
Premise and Conclusion**

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Challenge!!

Try the following logical puzzle.

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?

Workshop schedule

1. Oct 15: Introduction to Academic Writing & Logical Thinking
2. Oct 29: Developing a central idea for your dissertation
3. Nov 19: Developing a convincing support for the central idea - 1
4. Nov 26: Developing a convincing support for the central idea - 2
5. Dec 10: Writing an abstract for your dissertation
6. Dec 17: Plagiarism and Logical Thinking Education

Homework

Write in English
a summary highlighting
what your dissertation is about.
(about 100 Words)

Additional Challenge!!

Try make the following conclusion fully convincing.

Peter is in Nagoya.

Take home message...