

From Topic to Thesis: The Art of Logical Argumentation

Dr. John Martino

Subclass A

Date: November 2, 2023 (Thursday)

Time: 10:30 a.m. - 1:20 p.m. &
3:30 p.m. - 6:20 p.m.

Venue: Main Campus, HKU

Subclass B

Date: November 16, 2023 (Thursday)

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. &
2:30 p.m. - 5:20 p.m.

Venue: Main Campus, HKU

Overview

The workshop will focus on the construction of a logical, consistent, and evidence-based argument, including the production of a sound thesis statement, the use and importance of outside/secondary sources, and the organizing role that paragraphs play. The opening paragraph from the Introduction of the instructor's own dissertation will serve as the initial model to highlight such features as continuity, coherence, and clarity of thought. The workshop will also focus on the structure, content, and writing of the Introduction section of a thesis and/or article for publication.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the workshop, students should be able to:

- Understand, and apply to their own writing, elements of organizational & argumentative logic relevant to paragraph structure, syntax, and transitions between sentences/ideas.
- Develop a clear, strong title
- Craft an effective & logically organized Introduction opening paragraph
- Apply various revision strategies to their writing

Learning Activities

Students will practice their own content organizational writing skills via in-class exercises and student-submitted writing samples. The production of a sound thesis statement, the use and importance of outside/secondary sources, and the organizing role that paragraphs play will also be discussed. Students will be encouraged to submit in advance a thesis/article-for-publication "title" and the "opening paragraph" of their Introduction to be used as in-class models for writing and revising strategies.

About the Instructor

Dr. John Martino, Ph.D., was the Associate Professor of Extended English for International Students at Fisher College in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, prior to relocating to Hong Kong. Also a certified Teacher of English as a Foreign Language, Dr. Martino has worked with international English language learners for over 20 years, assisting them in their L2 English development as writers, speakers, readers, and critical thinkers. Additionally, he is a poet and photographer, whose creative work has appeared in numerous publications, including *The Boston Globe*, *New Orleans Review*, *North Dakota Quarterly*, and *Connotation Press: An Online Artifact*.

