



From Topic to Hypothesis: The Art of Logical Organisation

Dr. John Martino

Date: November 13, 2025 (Thursday)

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.

Venue: Main Campus, HKU

Overview

The workshop will focus on the construction of logically organised, coherently structured, and economically worded sentences and paragraphs leading to the presentation of a sound and evidence-based argument. Topics will include leveraging syntax for maximum precision of expression, organizing sentences and paragraphs for increased continuity, and crafting a concise and effective hypothesis/thesis statement. The structure, content, and writing of the Introduction section of a thesis/dissertation and/or article-for-publication will also be discussed, with particular attention paid to the Introduction's opening paragraph.

Learning Outcomes

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

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

Learning Activities

Students will practice their own content organisational 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 organising 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*.