

What is academic writing and why
should we study it?

Academic Writing
Faculty of Philology

- The craft or art of writing is the clumsy attempt to find symbols for the wordlessness. In utter loneliness a writer tries to explain the inexplicable.

(John Steinbeck)

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Kaplan, Robert B. "Cultural Thought Patterns in Inter-cultural Education." *Language learning* 16.1-2 (1966): 1-20.

- Logic is not universal; rhetoric is not universal either.
- Expected sequence of thought in English is essentially a Platonic-Aristotelian sequence.
- About 600 foreign students' compositions from 3 basic language groups were analyzed.

Straight line

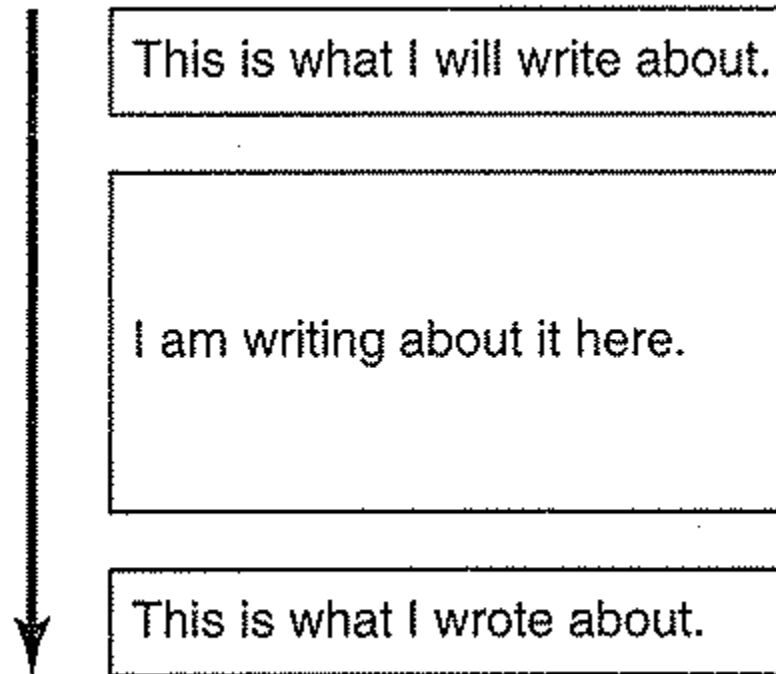


Diagram 1: English Organization

Digressions

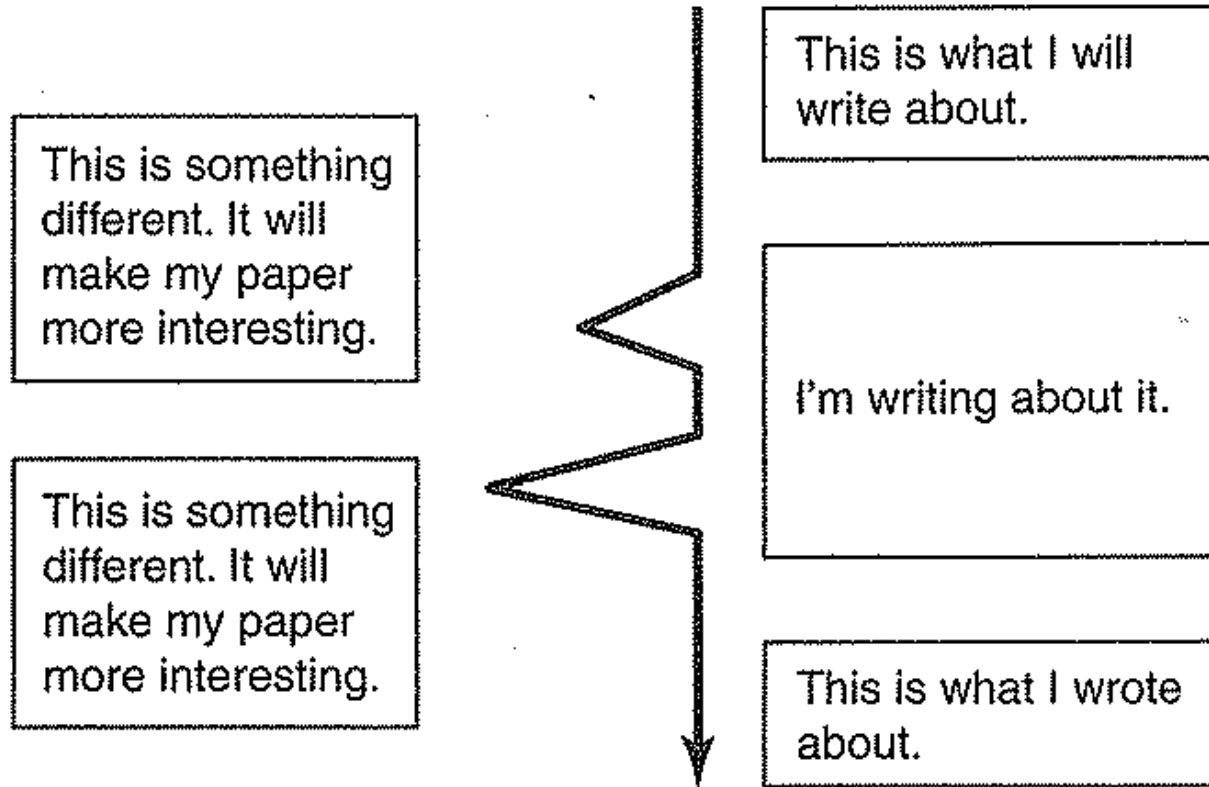


Diagram 2: Spanish Organization

Circular

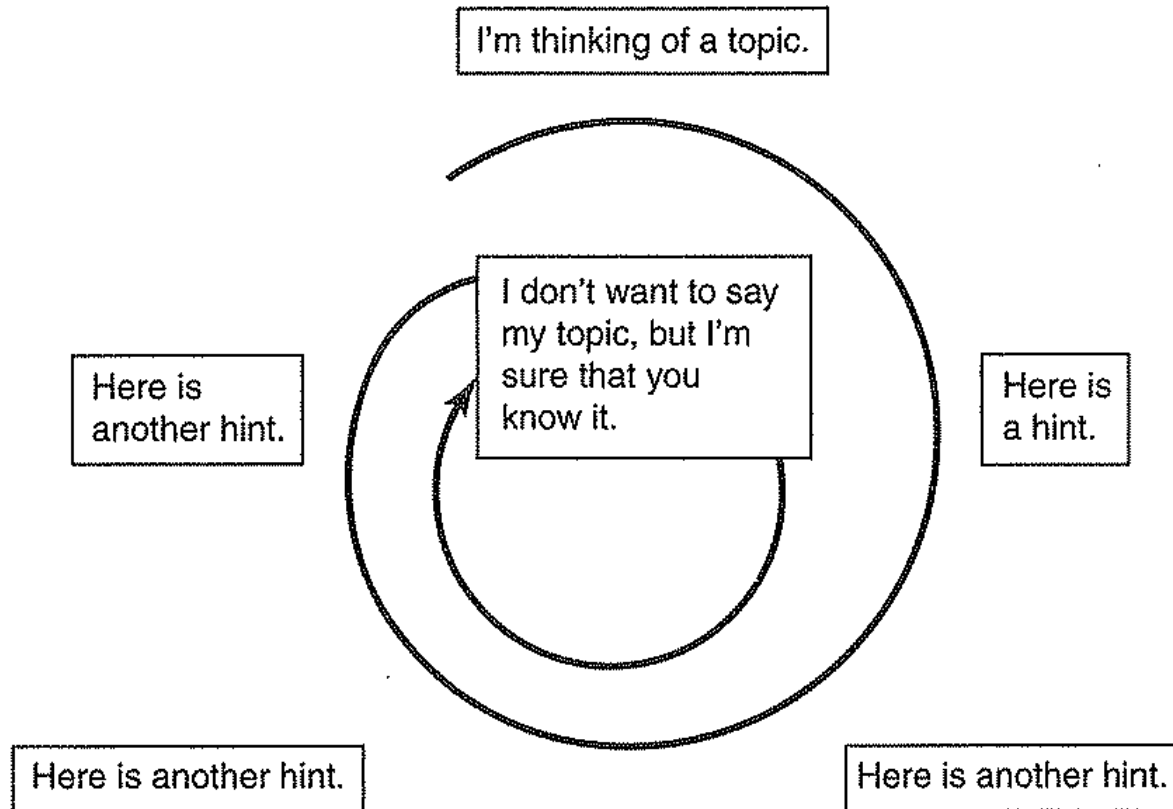


Diagram 3: Japanese Organization

Parallelism

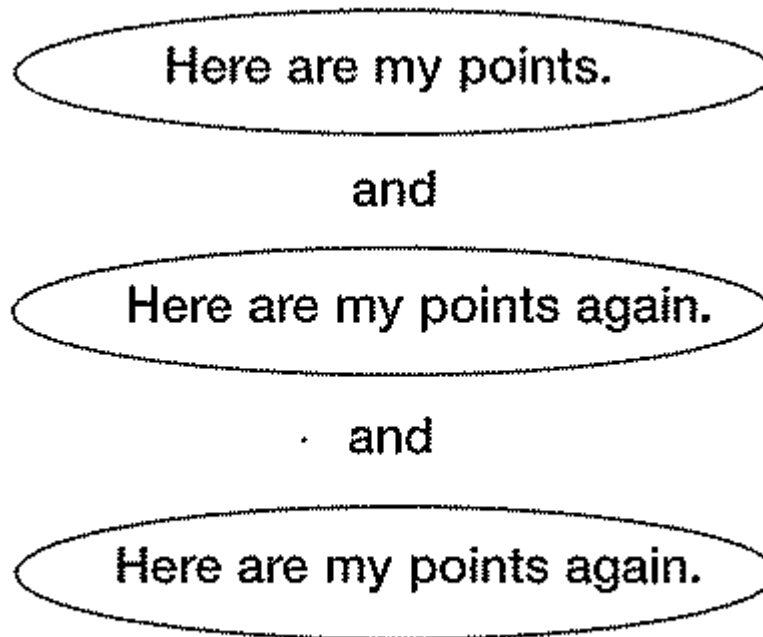


Diagram 4: Arabic Organization

Free writing

- **to start writing**
- as a bridge between experimental work and writing
- to make the step from outlining to writing

How to do free writing

- Write for five minutes
- Without stopping
- In sentences
- For no reader
- Without structure

What academics say they use free writing for

- For 'self-discussion'
- For linking different ideas
- Developing the writing habit
- Thinking through ideas
- Doing the first draft
- Getting initial thoughts
- Generating ideas
- 'Ventilating' feelings and ideas
- Summarizing knowledge
- To stop procrastinating

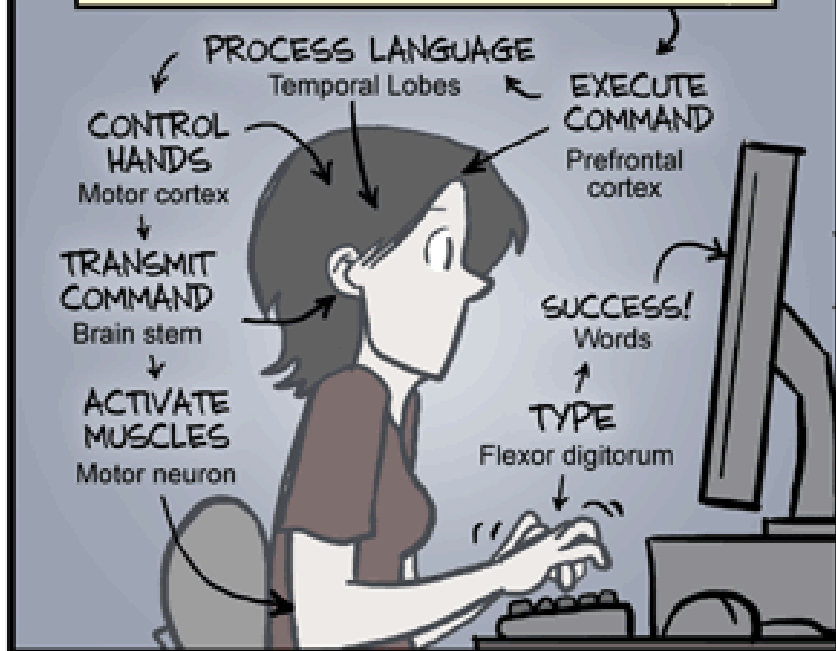
Free writing task

- Write about your student experience at HSE. What were the most important revelations and challenges in academic life and how did it change your worldview and your own idea of literature? How do you imagine your professional activity at this point?

THE END!

THE NEUROBIOLOGY OF WRITING

HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO WORK:



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HOW IT USUALLY WORKS:

