

天哪！我究竟在做甚麼？What Am I Doing Here?

個個學期都要寫論文，幾乎科科都要寫論文，到學期尾聲日日都要寫論文，在課堂和圖書館之間奔走的時候，在飯桌都變成書桌的時候，我會忽然問自己：「天哪！我到底在做甚麼？」

一份論文最少牽涉兩個人，一個，是論文的讀者，也就是你的老師；另一個，是論文的作者，也就是你自己。按我的經驗，一份論文的成敗，在於你是否了解老師和你自己在做甚麼。

你了解你的讀者嗎？

不同的老師，會因應同學的需要而提出不同的要求：有些希望你了解相關的內容；有些期望你掌握研究的技巧；有些認為創意很重要；有些看重專業的表達，要了解老師，最容易的方法是上課，在課堂上不但要聽的懂老師要表達的內容，更可以聽得出某位老師對同學的期望、對治學的要求，上課，其實是取得「貼士」的最好時機。

你了解你自己嗎？

如果你怕悶，你還會選一個令自己倒胃口的題目嗎？如果你擅於處理大量的資訊，那就不會怕有很多不同觀點的議題。如果你未入神學院已經想做某一個題目，那還會再作他想嗎？如果你只希望有好成績，那大概不會冒險去寫自己不懂的東西。我的經驗是，自己寫的最好的，往往是自己覺得最有意思的。看著GPA斤斤計較的話，最後得到的，往往只是一個印在成績單沒有人會看的英文字母。

Sometimes we will get lost when we are researching for our term papers. Facing tens of papers to be done within one term, one may wonder, "What am I doing here?"

An academic paper involves at least two parties: the reader and the writer. The success of a paper also depends on your understanding about the teacher and yourself.

What are the teachers' expectations?

Teachers may have different expectations for students. Some teachers are concerned about the student's ability to understand the subject matter; others are more concerned about the methodology. Some would look for creativity while others may expect professional presentation. Attending lectures is the best way to know your teacher. We should pay attention not only to what they are saying, but also to how they are saying it.

What are you aiming at?

Are you looking for interesting topics? Are you challenging your own ability to digest difficult materials? Are you just trying to up keep your GPA record? Your aims for writing a paper decide what you would be researching and how it should be done. Most importantly, your own position would determine your attitude towards the whole learning process.

從無到有？Creatio Ex Nihilo？

從甚麼地方可以找到自己喜歡的題目？

1. 上課；又是上課；仍是上課。
2. 看課程大綱，自問：那一課的主題我最有興趣？
3. 看書。導論書本讓你知道科目的梗概。
4. 溜圖書館。走到書架上看不不同的主題。
5. 看自己：你有心儀的對象嗎？一見鍾情，死而無憾。
6. 看時間：死線逼近，自然會找到題目。

沒有靈感的迷思：我還沒有開始，因為……沒靈感、不懂、很困難、很忙碌、很困擾。

1. 越是沒有靈感，越是要早開始。
2. 越是困難，越是要早開始。
3. 越是不懂，越是要早開始。
4. 越是忙碌，越是要早開始。
5. 生命越是艱難，越是要早開始。

寫論文，也鍛鍊我們面對現實的勇氣。

Where to find a topic?

1. Lectures
2. Course Outline
3. Textbook: introductory ones provide you with an overview of the topic
4. Library: browsing around the books may give you some insight
5. Your own interest
6. You will find a topic when the deadline has come.

Some myths about starting to write a paper: I procrastinate because: I have no idea; I don't know about it; It's difficult: I am so busy; I am so depressed.

1. If you have no idea, you should start early.
2. If you are ignorant about it, you should start early.
3. If it is difficult, you should start early.
4. If you are busy, you should start early.
5. If you are depressed, you should start working immediately.

Writing papers is a process that challenges us to face the difficulties.

看看而已 I Am Just Shopping Around

任務一：縮窄範圍

Task one: Narrow down your topic

任務二：了解討論重點

Task two: Get to know the viewpoints

任務三：找出議題

Task three: Formulating your own topic

Start with dictionary entries:

The anchor bible dictionary BS440.A54 1992

The Eerdmans Bible dictionary BS440.B4913

Eerdmans dictionary of the Bible BS440 .E44 2000

Theological dictionary of the Old Testament BS440 .B5713

聖經新辭典 BS440 .D612 1993

證主聖經百科全書 BS440 .B2612 1995

Dictionary of mission : theology, history, perspectives BV2040 .L4813 1997

Evangelical dictionary of theology BR95 .E87 2001

The Oxford companion to Christian thought BR95 .O7 2000

The melody of theology : a philosophical dictionary BR95.P36

The Westminster dictionary of theologians BR95 .D4513 2006

搜索中 Searching and Researching

Books: Using the Library Catalogue (Including audio-visual and e-books)

Articles: Using the ATLA search engine

News: Using the Wise News Archive

中大的好山好水 The CUHK Playground

Library Reference Counter CULibrary – Services – Reference Services

Library Workshop <http://infolit.lib.cuhk.edu.hk/>

Inter-library Loan CULibrary – Services – Interlibrary Loan (HKALL)

E-books CULibrary – Catalogue

The ILC <http://www.ilc.cuhk.edu.hk>

The CLEAR <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/>

The WAC <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/wac/new-resources.htm>

線上瘋 The Online Maniac

WARNING: Web-surfing can be hazardous to your health.

WARNING: You have to use your discernment when going online.

Greek/ New Testament

<http://home.comcast.net/~rciampa/>

<http://www.greekbiblestudy.org/gnt/main.do>

<http://www.zhubert.com/>

<http://www.christianhospitality.org/archives.htm>

<http://www.ibiblio.org/koine/>

Hebrew/ Old Testament

<http://www.mechon-mamre.org/p/pt/pt0.htm>

<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/nets/edition/>

[http://tanakhml2.alacartejava.net/cocoon/tanakhml/d13.php2xml?sfr=1&prq=1&pnt=t
ru&acc=tru&dia=tru&enc=heb](http://tanakhml2.alacartejava.net/cocoon/tanakhml/d13.php2xml?sfr=1&prq=1&pnt=t
ru&acc=tru&dia=tru&enc=heb)

<http://www.earlyjewishwritings.com/>

<http://unbound.biola.edu/>

<http://www.hebrew4christians.com/>

中文網

<http://bible.fhl.net>

<http://occr.christiantimes.org.hk/>

Christianity Study

<http://www.library.yale.edu/div/forfree.html#diction>

Writing and Studying Skills

http://www.cyberspacei.com/greatbooks/h2/how2read/h2r_contents.htm

http://www.hull.ac.uk/studyadvice/serv_info/reso_bigtable.htm

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/success/reading.html>

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/materials/student/humanities/religion.shtml>