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MURPHY BI-WEEKLY WRITING TIP

Dear Murphy Institute Students,

There are five weeks left of the fall semester—which means final papers are coming.

Last tip, I suggested you try the TQS (Topic-Question-Significance) Template to help you through two common obstacles: getting started and focusing your research. Yet, once we have done our research and drafted something, we sometimes encounter another common obstacle: making changes to our draft that improve it—in other words, revising.

This week’s tip offers questions you can consider while reviewing & revising your work:

Revision Questions

Revising means making substantial changes to your paper’s ideas, arguments, organization, and word-choice.

Some Questions to Consider When Revising Your Papers:

- Do the ideas in every paragraph clearly connect to your thesis / main claim?
  - Some ideas may be irrelevant or not clearly connected yet

- Does each paragraph build on the ideas & information from the previous paragraph(s)?
  - Each paragraph should add to the points you want to make like bricks of a building

- Do you use transition words & phrases to connect ideas and paragraphs?
  - If the paper sounds “choppy” or makes sudden shifts to other topics, you may need to add transition words or sentences

- Are there paragraphs that juggle more than one topic / idea?
  - A rule of thumb is one idea per paragraph— if there is more than one, try developing each idea in separate paragraphs

- Are ideas, sentences, or information repeated throughout your paper? Are any ideas missing?
  - If so, you may need to delete whatever is repeated and add whatever is missing

- Are your evidence, examples, and reasons specific? Are they the strongest you could find?

If you have questions or want to put this into practice, feel free to contact me! 😊

Sign Up for a One-On-One Tutoring Session

1. Visit https://murphy.mywconline.net/
2. Register for an account
3. Log in and select the “Murphy Queens Writing Center” calendar.
4. Choose any of the available white rectangles.
5. Fill out the form with your assignment info.

Sign up to attend the Writing Improvement Workshops, Please RSVP Here.

I look forward to working with you soon!

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