

MURPHY BI-WEEKLY WRITING TIP

Dear Murphy Institute Students,

We, as people, tend to appreciate *unity*: when every member of a group participates in their own way to achieve a common goal. We also enjoy *unity* in what we see and read: when every scene or every line somehow adds an important piece to the whole. Effective Writing is likewise *united*, or *cohesive*: each paragraph and sentence clearly connect to the main argument of the work.

Coherent Writing

When the sentences, paragraphs, and ideas all connect to the main argument (thesis)

For coherence in your paper, check whether important key words are repeated throughout

1. Pick key word(s) that capture the main focus of your paper
E.g. *Identity, Freedom, Crime, Justice, Gerontology, Poetic Expression, Archetypes*
2. Put the key word(s) in your introduction, especially in the *thesis statement*
3. Make sure each paragraph mentions that word **at least once**
 - (1) If there are paragraphs that do not have it, then review that paragraph to make sure it connects to the main argument and *add the key word*
4. Use *synonyms* of the key word
 - (1) Make sure you *do not overuse* it. Instead, try to use other words or phrases that refer to the same idea. Compare:

*The character is devoted to **freedom**. Although such **freedom** can be hard to get, he will fight for **freedom**.*

*The character is devoted to **freedom**. Although such **liberty** can be hard to get, he will fight for it.*
5. For each paragraph, make sure it develops something **different** about the key word. For example:

What it means to be free, Why he is devoted to freedom, One example of his devotion, etc.

This not only ensures that every paragraph connects to the main argument, but also that it adds something new!

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 mywco.com/murphyinstitute
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.

I look forward to working with you soon!

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