

MURPHY BI-WEEKLY WRITING TIP

Dear Murphy Institute Students,

In a previous tip on *Paraphrasing* [found on our [blog](#)], we suggested steps you can follow for a thorough paraphrase (or summary). Today's tip will expand on that tip's step 2: "Write down the Main ideas," and offer you quick ways for *finding the main ideas* first.

Finding the Main Idea(s)

Step 1 – As you read the paragraph or section you plan to paraphrase, highlight the words / phrases that repeat.

Here is an excerpt we will use for this tip: [Step 1 \(PDF\)](#)

Note – Repeated words point to the **main focus of a paragraph or section**. If the phrase "social media networks" or the word "vengeance/ avenge" repeat, then you know those sections focus on those general topics.

Step 2 – List those repeated words / phrases on a **separate page**, and define any of these words you do not know

Note – Since it would be time consuming to define **all** the words, focus your time on those that repeat

Step 3 – On the separate page, answer:

What does the passage say about these terms?

How do they connect to one another?

Create an outline of **brief notes** that show how all the ideas connect: [Step 3 \(PDF\)](#)

Note – **Transition words** and **verbs** of the sentences will help you see how the ideas connect.

Note – When writing the brief notes, use **your own words** for anything **not** the main terms. This will help you later write your paraphrase.

Follow the remaining steps of the previous tip to finish writing your paraphrase!

As always: Remind yourselves what you have accomplished, and Best of Luck!

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.

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