

## MURPHY BI-WEEKLY WRITING TIP

Dear Murphy Institute Students,

Today's tip will offer you a quick guide on how body paragraphs are *typically* structured – on the parts of a well-developed body paragraph and what you can check for when reviewing your own!

### ***Body Paragraphs***

**Topic Sentence:** *tells your reader what the focus of the paragraph will be*

If you get stuck, try this sentence starter: *the focus of this paragraph will be how...*

*The focus of this paragraph will be how libraries have contributed to the economic development of communities.*

Just remember to remove it for your final draft!

*Libraries have contributed to the economic development of communities.*

**Explanation:** *explains the topic or argument*

Sometimes your topic sentence needs to be explained a little, either because it is complex or needs context. In at least one sentence, try explaining what you mean, defining any key terms, or giving background information you believe your reader should know:

*Many communities have been economically stagnant in part because residents are unaware of the resources available to help them get jobs.*

**Evidence:** *the quotes, paraphrase, or summary from source(s), with citation*

**Analysis:** *tells your reader how the evidence supports your argument*

Do not only re-state the information from the evidence – but write (in several sentences) what the evidence reveals, what is important about it, and how it supports or challenges your topic sentence / main argument.

*This account by a resident reveals how helpful libraries can be in providing people with resources, such as access to free internet, resume workshops, and opportunities to network.*

**Lead Out:** *connects the paragraph to paper's thesis statement*

Finish the paragraph with a sentence or two that connects what you have written in this paragraph to the thesis statement. Here you would re-state the main point in a different way:

*Because libraries can help a community advance economically [topic], they should receive more funding [thesis] to ensure these benefits continue.*

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.

**Jean Soto, Writing Specialist**

[Jean.Soto@slu.cuny.edu](mailto:Jean.Soto@slu.cuny.edu)

(929) 265-2101

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