Dear Murphy Institute Students,

Building on what we covered in our last Bi-Weekly Tip [Body Paragraphs], today's tip will focus on what typically goes into your introductions – a section of our papers we so often struggle to write.

**Introductions**

An introduction gives context for what you will be writing about – it gives your readers the general information they need to better understand your paper.

Although this is not the only way to structure your introductions, below you will find a typical structure that can apply to most introductions.

**“What We Think We Know”**

Your first sentences typically describe what you, researchers, or other people in general have believed about a topic, or a relevant event that has happened:

*When summer comes around, two things are inevitable: sweaty days and music. Many people share beloved memories of a city alive with summer anthems and find the thought of music as a welcomed aspect of the season.*

**“What We Don’t Know”**

Transition into sentences that state a problem that you, researchers, or other people in general do not yet know the answer to – this will often begin with a however, but, or yet:

*However, many of us do not consider how prolonged exposure to music during the summer can affect our mental and physical well-being.*

**“Why We Need an Answer”**

Next, before or after your thesis, write a few sentences that describe why this is important for us to answer – What will it reveal if we find out? What might happen if we do not?

*It is important for us to know how the things we take for granted could impact our well-being without our noticing, and if constant music exposure harms us, we would need to take certain precautions during the summer months.*

**“The Answer”**

Finally, end your introduction with your thesis statement – the solution or answer to your research problem / question.

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
(929) 265-2101


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