

## MURPHY BI-WEEKLY WRITING TIP

Dear Murphy Institute Students,

How are your papers going? How's that thesis statement coming along?

For most students, the thesis statement is a recurring roadblock to their papers – many students aren't sure how to strengthen theirs, many others aren't even sure how to get them started. This week's tip will offer some help with the latter: a template to help you *begin* to draft a thesis statement.

### *A Thesis Template (I)*

Thesis statements need to:

- tell the main argument / subject of your paper
- give a “roadmap” for what will be covered

If you are working on an argumentative paper – to take a position and support with evidence – the following template can help you have all the parts you need:

While/ Although [Typical belief / Counterargument], Subject + Claim + Specific Reason(s).

- **Typical belief:** what readers or scholars believe that you disagree with
- **Subject:** what topic your paper will focus on
- **Claim:** your position about the topic
- **Reasons:** why you believe your position is correct

Examples:

While many argue that the characters in the novel merely reference people the author personally knew, the family at the center of the story clearly represent ancient Greek gods because of the similar descriptions, actions, and storylines.

Although scholars typically cite religion as the cause of Christian persecution, contemporary findings suggest that the most severe persecution was due to their economic impact on the city of Rome.

*Remember: Templates give you a start, but always revise your thesis!*

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! ☺**