

MURPHY BI-WEEKLY WRITING TIP

Dear Murphy Institute Students,

In the last tip, we offered you one template for putting your thesis together.

However, that template is most useful if you are writing an *argumentative paper*: where you need to argue and defend a position. But what if you are *comparing or contrasting*? This week's tip will offer another template for that kind of paper.

A Thesis Template (II)

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 a compare / contrast paper, the following template can help draft one:

If you are **comparing** (focusing on how two different things are actually *similar*):

Although [summary of how they are different], [main ways they are the same].

If you are **contrasting** (focusing on how two similar things are actually *different*):

Although [summary of how they are the same], [main ways they are different].

Examples:

Although most scholars may see no similarity between the 1994 film *Wes Craven's New Nightmare* and the 2020 film *Gretel & Hansel*, citing how different the settings and characters are, both films are feminist revisions of the classic Grimm's folklore tale *Hansel and Gretel*.

Although both bills proposed by congress seem to essentially offer the same benefits to constituents, the first would have a stronger economic boost to the middle class while the second would offer a greater variety of social programs.

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! ☺