**MURPHY BI-WEEKLY WRITING TIP**

**Narrow Your Scope**

Dear Murphy Students:

One common obstacle students have with their papers is with the **scope** – and you have had this obstacle, too, if you ever needed to **narrow your topic** and **get more specific**.

For **scope**, it helps to imagine a field you build a square fence on:

The field is all the information on a topic you could research and write, And the fence is the plot of land you can reasonably manage

Similarly, before you research or write your papers, decide: **how much will I cover and go into depth on?**

**Questions to help you decide on your paper’s scope:**

How much time do you have to research and write? How many pages?

What can you reasonably do within that time? Within those pages?

For example: in two weeks you may not be able to read and compare three novels for a five-page paper, but for five pages you could compare a novel and a poem

What specifically do you want to cover?


Instead of a broad topic, like “multilingual students,” get specific: “Obstacles of NYC Multilingual elementary school students taking math classes in the last 10 years”

What specifically do you **not** want to cover?

Can you create a “starting point” and an “end point” for your paper?

For example: “From 2010 to 2021” or “From the rise of an empire to its fall” or “From the First Gen. Romantics to the Second Gen.”

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**Sign Up for a One-On-One Tutoring Session**

1. Visit [https://murphy_mywconline.net/](https://murphy_mywconline.net/)
2. [Register for an account](#)
3. Log in and select the “QC 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! ☺