

MURPHY BI-WEEKLY WRITING TIP

Show, Don't Just Tell

Dear Murphy Students:

If you have ever taken a creative writing class, you may know the maxim: **show, don't tell**. In that context, it means, for example, don't just *tell* us a person is angry, *show* us that they are angry with their actions or words.

When writing your essays, the same rule applies: **don't just tell us** that "teachers can use many multimodal strategies to assist students" – **show us how** they can. Give us **details, explanation, examples**, or other **evidence**.

And, if you happen to be writing a personal statement or application, **don't just tell** the admissions representatives that you are passionate, hard-working, or dedicated to the field: **show them how** you are with details and examples.

Write so that even if you never told them you were passionate, they can still see your passion.

Questions to help you "*Show, not just Tell*"

What are you *telling* them? (What do you claim?)

- About a story, an article you read, a policy, a strategy, or your personal qualities?
- E.g., "**The strategy is important**" / "**The policy is effective**" / "**I am passionate**"

What evidence do you have? (How do you know?)

- What details, examples, quotes, observations, statistics, or personal stories?
- E.g., "**Students remembered more after using the strategy**" / "**After the policy was put in place, people were able to get the help they needed**" / "**I spent my summers and free time volunteering at the library and helping children read.**"

Do you *show* them your evidence for every important point you make?

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 "QC 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! 😊