

MURPHY BI-WEEKLY WRITING TIP

WIRMI (What I Really Mean Is...)

Dear Murphy Students:

The beginning of the semester is a good time to start practicing strategies that can turn into useful habits. A few worth doing now are *Calendaring Your Semester*; *Setting Small, Specific, Doable Goals*; and *Dealing with your Procrastination* – all of which you can find tips for **on our blog**.

For our first Spring tip, we will suggest another strategy you can practice throughout the semester.

WIRMI (What I Really Mean Is...)

All writers, professional & casual, struggle with not knowing how to say something. Most struggle with making complex ideas clear.

This phrase can help you with both!

When you can't find the right words...

Stop writing and say to yourself:
OK, *what I really mean is...*

- Explain your thoughts as you would *naturally* to a friend or classmate.
- Write them down – then move on!
- Don't worry if it sounds "too simple" - **You can always return and revise!**

When you feel you haven't been clear...

Re-read what you wrote, then say:
Well, *what I really mean is...*

- The phrase forces us to briefly **summarize** our ideas
- Check your draft to see whether you already wrote what you said
- **If not:** add it or rewrite your draft

It may help to quickly **record yourself** so that you don't forget what you said!

If you want more information about this strategy, visit:

<https://www.monash.edu/learnhq/write-like-a-pro/improve-your-writing/write-clearly/express-your-meaning>

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 "Writing Support (All Campuses)" 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! 😊