

MURPHY BI-WEEKLY WRITING TIP

Organizing Strategies (I)

Dear Murphy Students:

Welcome back from Spring break!

As the end of the semester draws near, all the final assignments due soon may easily stress you out. Especially the Final Papers and Projects that require so much to do. One concern students often have is: *how can I organize my final papers?*

This week's tip will offer you *two* common strategies for organizing your papers.

Chronologically ("By Time")

Plan to order the information from *what happened earliest to recent*.

For example:

Mental Health Stigma in the **1990s**

- Challenges
- Ways people tried to address it

Mental Health Stigma in the **2000s**

- Challenges
- Ways people tried to address it

Mental Health Stigma in the **2010s**

- Challenges
- Ways people tried to address it

This is great for:

Papers that show how a problem has changed *over time*, how people *over time* tried to solve a problem, how the field or a person grew *over time*, or how an idea changed *over time*

Thematically ("By Themes")

Divide your topic into *subtopics*, then plan to discuss **each** subtopic in a **different** section or paragraph.

For example:

Topic = Mental Health Stigma

Section 1: Where the Stigma comes from

- From society (1 paragraph)
- From families (1 paragraph)

Section 2: How Stigma affects different people

- Adults (1 paragraph)
- Children (1 paragraph)

Section 3: Ways to address the Stigma

This is great for:

All papers – If you don't have a clear way to organize your paper (e.g., "by time"), then *divide* it into *subtopics* and decide how many paragraphs you need for *each* subtopic.

Note: you can also combine these two strategies in one paper!

For a large paper (**10+ pages**), you could:

Write paragraphs about *how a problem changed over time* (**Chronological**)
Then, *the different people it affected and the solutions* (**Thematic**)

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! 😊**