

## MURPHY BI-WEEKLY WRITING TIP

### *Choosing Topics: Gaps in Literature*

Dear Murphy Students:

Many of you are in the middle of, or about to begin, work on a semester research project. One challenge students have is *choosing a topic to focus on* – especially if they are expected to do *new* or *original* research.

To help, it is useful to think about the *gaps in the literature*.

#### The Literature

The “literature” refers to all the research published on a topic. For example:

If your topic is on *cyberbullying* – the literature would be all the research articles and books published about cyberbullying

#### The Gaps

The “gaps” refer to the “missing pieces” in the literature:

the areas that need more research because there is *too little* or *none*

All Research Done About the Topic

#### Effects of Cyberbullying on...

High Schoolers



Middle Schoolers



Elementary students



College Students

These would be the *gaps* –

There is *little* or *no* research done on the effects of cyberbullying on elementary students or college students

Therefore, I may choose to do a study on (or research about) how cyberbullying has affected college students since that would be *new* and possibly *original* research

**To discover gaps in the literature:** read the research about a topic, including “tertiary sources” (textbooks, Wikipedia, etc.), and ask yourself: *Is there something not talked about enough, or at all?*

#### 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.

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**If you have questions or want to put this into practice, feel free to contact me! 😊**

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