Volume 10, Issue 2

# 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**

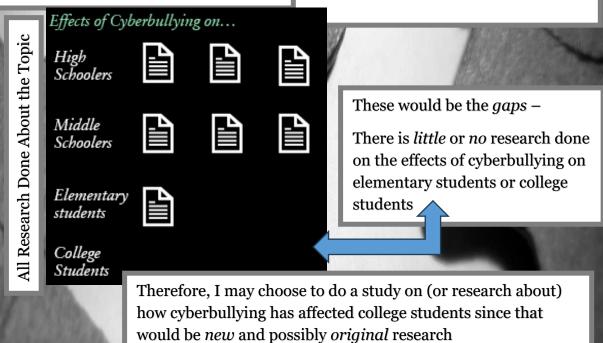
The "literature" refers to all the research published on a topic. For example:

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* 



**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 <u>https://murphy.mywconline.net/</u>
- 2. <u>Register for an account</u>
- 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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