

MURPHY BI-WEEKLY WRITING TIP

Vary Sentence Length

Dear Murphy Students:

Quality writing is not only noted for its word-choice but also its rhythm. How do you avoid writing that is boring because it is monotonous? How can you make your writing more interesting to read? Vary Sentence Length.

What is a sentence length?

Sentence length = how many words are in a sentence.

Dull Paragraph

If all the sentences in your paragraph are about the same length, the paragraph will sound dull. For example:

We have worked on this project all year (8 words). It disappoints us that you did not participate (8 words). We would like you to consider to join us next time (11 words). Then, we can all feel like a united team (9 words).

Stronger Paragraph

Instead, consider making some sentences shorter and others longer:

We worked on this project all year, but you did not participate (12 words). That disappoints us (3 words). Consider joining us next time, so then we can all feel like a united team (15 words).

Note: The paragraph has the same ideas and meaning – *all we changed was how long each sentence was. We even combined sentences to add variety.*

When reviewing your writing, look at how many words are in each sentence and ask yourself:

- Are all my sentences the same length?
- Can I make some longer or shorter?
- Can I combine sentences or divide one sentence into many smaller ones?

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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! 😊