

# MURPHY BI-WEEKLY WRITING TIP

## Editing Tip: It, They, Thing

Dear Murphy Students:

For our final tip of the Spring 2025 semester, we offer three words to look out for when editing, especially if you are almost ready to turn in your paper.

For tips on making significant revisions to your paper, refer to any of the other tips on our blog!

### The Words

One way to avoid being ambiguous or unclear is to avoid overusing vague words. Three common, vague words overused are "it", "they", and "thing."

### What to do:

- Review your paper, find each time you use "it", "they" or "thing".
- Ask yourself: what do I *mean* by "it", "they", or "thing"?
- Then, replace these words with **more specific words**.

### Examples

Whenever the teacher used **it** in the classroom, the students were able to focus better.

Whenever the teacher used **the graphic organizer** in the classroom, the students were able to focus better.

Vague

**They** expressed their ideas clearly both in writing and when speaking.

**The students** expressed their ideas clearly both in writing and when speaking.

Graphic organizers and pre-teaching have been found to help students better understand material. These are the kinds of **things** needed in the classroom.

Graphic organizers and pre-teaching have been found to help students better understand material. These are the kinds of **strategies** needed in the classroom.

Vague

### 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! 😊

<https://murphywc.commons.gc.cuny.edu/bi-weekly-writing-tips/>