



Transition Sentences

Why do I need to use transition sentences?

- They bring out the **logical relation** between ideas, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of a paper. They can help readers understand how sentences and paragraphs work together to lead to a larger idea.
- They provide the reader with **directions** for how to piece together your ideas into a logically coherent argument. You cannot assume that your readers know everything that you know, so sometimes you need to lead them through your paper. Transition words and sentences can serve as stepping stones.
- Transition sentences make your writing sound less choppy, jumpy, or abrupt. They help establish **organizational flow**.

What are the components of good transition sentences?

- They make an explicit connection between ideas, sentences, and paragraphs.
- Good transitions use **specific words**. Try to avoid using pronouns like “this” to refer to an entire idea because it is not always clear who or what “this” refers to.

Types of Transitions:

- **Between paragraphs** to highlight the relationship between the two main ideas of each paragraph
To help you make these transitions:
 - Write a short summary of each paragraph in the margin of your paper.
 - Rearrange paragraphs depending on which ideas link together best.
 - Add a sentence or two to the end of each paragraph or the beginning of the next paragraph to **explicitly show** how the ideas in each paragraph **relate** to one another.

For example:

- Your first body paragraph discusses the similarities between two literary works, such as *The Great Gatsby* and *Death of a Salesman*.
 - Your second body paragraph discusses the differences between the same two literary works.
 - **TRANSITION SENTENCE:** While both works present main characters with an aspiration to attain the American Dream, the ways in which they go about attaining this dream are different.
- **Within paragraphs** between examples or sub ideas
These short sentences act as cues by helping the reader **anticipate** what they will be reading about in the next few sentences and how each idea **relates** to another. Transitions tend to be single words or phrases when used within paragraphs.

See example on the next page...

For example:

- Original Paragraph: Deciding on a college is often a difficult decision for students. Most school counselors try to provide students with different resources. They include assessments and college brochures. Counselors need to provide students with more resources in order to help them make a more informed decision about what college to attend.
- Revised Paragraph (with transitions): Deciding on a college is often a difficult decision for students. **Therefore**, most school counselors try to provide students with different resources **such as** assessments and college brochures. **However**, counselors need to provide students with more resources in order to help them make a more informed decision about what college to attend.

Proofreading for Transitions

- Look at the **end** of each paragraph and see how it connects to the **first** sentence of the paragraph following it.
- If there does not seem to be a **clear** connection, you can improve the transition by **clarifying** your logic or **rearranging** the paragraphs.

Key words to help you form transition sentences:

Relationship	Words to choose from
Similarity	also, in the same way, just as, so too, likewise, similarly
Contrast	however, in spite of, nevertheless, nonetheless, in contrast, still, yet
Sequence	first, second, third, next, then, finally
Time	after, at last, before, currently, during, earlier, immediately, later, meanwhile, now, recently, simultaneously, subsequently, then
Example	for example, for instance, namely, specifically, to illustrate, such as
Emphasis	even, indeed, in fact, of course, truly, more/most importantly
Position	above, adjacent, below, beyond, here, in front, in back, nearby
Cause/Effect	accordingly, consequently, hence, so, therefore, thus
Additional Support	additionally, again, also, as well, besides, equally important, further, furthermore, in addition, moreover
Conclusion	finally, briefly, in conclusion, in the end, in the final analysis, on the whole, to conclude, to summarize, in summary

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