

Transitions

Argument Writing

The Importance of Transitions

In both academic writing and professional writing, your goal is to convey information clearly and concisely, if not to convert the reader to your way of thinking.

Transitions help you to achieve these goals by establishing logical connections between sentences, paragraphs, and sections of your papers.

In other words, transitions tell readers what to do with the information you present to them.

Types of Transitions

A transition can be a single word, a phrase, a sentence, or more. In each case, it functions the same way: First, the transition either directly summarizes the content of a preceding sentence or paragraph. Then, it helps the reader anticipate or comprehend the new information that you wish to present.

Transitions between paragraphs: If you have done a good job of arranging paragraphs so that the content of one leads logically to the next, the transition will highlight a relationship that already exists by summarizing the previous paragraph and suggesting something of the content of the paragraph that follows. A transition between paragraphs can be a word or two (however, for example, similarly), a phrase, or a sentence.

Transitions within paragraphs: As with transitions between sections and paragraphs, transitions within paragraphs act as cues by helping readers to anticipate what is coming before they read it. Within paragraphs, transitions tend to be single words or short phrases.

RELATIONSHIP	EXPRESSION
Similarity	Also, in the same way, just as... so too, likewise, similarly
Contrast	but, however, in spite of, on the one hand ... on the other hand, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding, in contrast, on the contrary, still, yet
Order	first, second, third, ... next, then, finally
Time	after, afterward, at last, before, currently, during, earlier, immediately, later, meanwhile, now, recently, simultaneously, subsequently, then
Example	for example, for instance, namely, specifically, to illustrate
Emphasis	even, indeed, in fact, of course, truly
Cause and Effect	accordingly, consequently, hence, so, therefore, thus
Conclusion	finally, in a word, in brief, briefly, in conclusion, in the end, in the final analysis, on the whole, thus, to conclude, to summarize, in sum, to sum up, in summary
Additional Support	additionally, again, also, and, as well, besides, equally important, further, furthermore, in addition, moreover, then