



## TRANSITIONS

**Transitions** help the reader move smoothly from old ideas to new ideas. You should use transitions in your writing to communicate the relationship between two points. **Select transitions with care.** For example, it is fine to begin a sentence with “In contrast,” yet many instructors prefer that you do not begin a sentence with “But.” Additionally, watch that you do not use “therefore” when you really mean “furthermore.” **Select the transition that best fits the idea you intend to express.** Use different transitions throughout your paper.

**1) Present another point (Transitions of Addition)**

additionally	besides	moreover	first	again
and	further	next	second	
also	furthermore	in addition	too	

**2) Give an example**

for example	in particular	such as
for instance	specifically	
in fact	to illustrate	

**3) Show contrast**

but	in contrast	even	though	conversely
on the other hand	nevertheless	yet	whereas	although
however	on the contrary	still		

**4) Show comparison**

similarly	likewise
also	in the same way
in the same manner	as well as

**5) Indicate cause/effect**

in effect	as a result	if	because
consequently	since	so	hence
thus	therefore	for this reason	because of this

**6) Summarize/Conclude**

in other words	thus	to summarize	on the whole
finally	therefore	consequently	in summary
in conclusion	to conclude	in brief	

**7) Indicate time**

now	after	earlier	gradually	immediately	simultaneously
then	next	soon	suddenly	during	previously
before	later	meanwhile	when	finally	at the same time

**8) Indicate place**

near	far	above	below	inside	surrounding
near to	far from	behind	close to	outside	across
nearly	beside	beyond	to the right	around	alongside

## USING TRANSITIONS BETWEEN PARAGRAPHS

It is also important to use transitional words and phrases to move from one paragraph to another paragraph. You can use a word, phrase, or sentence to connect a previous paragraph to a new one. These can come either at the end of the previous paragraph or in the beginning of the new paragraph. These transitions will help maintain coherence and logical flow in your essay. Below, you will find examples of types of transitions between paragraphs.

1. Use a transitional word or phrase (see the front of this sheet)

The poetry of Langston Hughes persists in popularity today.

**However**, students should be aware that Hughes wrote far more than the poetry he is so well-known for.

Researchers continue to plumb the depths of the ocean for new discoveries.

**In the meantime**, the available data provide some fascinating possibilities for scientists to explore.

2. Use an entire sentence to act as a bridge between ideas.

The Motion Picture Association of America is charged with assigning ratings to movies.

**In the film industry, the issue of censorship remains controversial.** Some prominent filmmakers consider the MPAA's guidelines a not-so-subtle form of censorship at work today.

3. Echo a key word or recall an important idea

Words provoke **emotional** responses in readers.

In your writing, consider the **emotional** associations you may arouse in your audience.

4. Use parallel structure

**They** imagined the quick, sweet pain, then the evacuation to Japan, then a hospital with warm beds and cute geisha nurses.

**They** dreamed of freedom birds...**They** felt the rush of takeoff. (Tim O'Brien, "The Things They Carried")

5. Answer a question from the previous paragraph

How could so many have witnessed the crime and not called for help?

The answer, it seems, is fear.

6. Write a "half-and-half" sentence—a sentence in which the first half refer to the paragraph just ended, and the second half refers to the paragraph just beginning.

Shylock at first was joking about taking "a pound of flesh," but his daughter's flight change his mind.

The paragraph ending was about Shylock's joking, and the new one is about his change.

7. Use the phrase "not only, but also" to show similarity

Krebs has lingering confusion **not only** about the war, **but also** about his family.

Instead of "also," sometimes "too" or "as well" can also be used.