

Transitions

What is a Transition?

- A transition is a word, sentence, or phrase that connects one topic to another.

What do transitions do?

- Help the paper flow smoothly.
- Connect sentences, paragraphs, and ideas.
- Help the reader to better understand and interpret your writing

Where should you put transitions?

- At the beginning of sentences
(Example: *Furthermore*, poverty in the United States is increasing at a rapid rate.)
- Within sentences
(Example: Housing prices have increased in Washington, *despite* the food costs that have decreased.)
- At the beginning of new paragraphs to transition from one topic to another.
(Example: *In addition, on the other hand, therefore, in general.*)

You may need to work on transitions when:

- You wrote your paper in many different parts and pasted them together.
- You write what you think and jump from topic to topic.

Tips when using transitions:

- Don't repeat the same transition over and over.
- Make sure you understand the transition when using them, don't just copy and paste.
- Make sure you're not adding in transitions all over the place (the next page over shows transition words for certain situations)

Transitions are useful tools to connect logical points, help introduce your ideas and evidence, and in general prevent choppy sounding sentences, and good transitions usually help readers not only clearly understand when an idea is changing or shifting, but also move through the paper with ease. In other words, they help get from point A to point B.

The next page will display specific transitional words and phrases that you can use in your own writing. But you should keep in mind the tips that were listed previously, so you don't end up misusing or overusing a transition.

Transition Words and Phrases

Add on to a thought

indeed
furthermore
in addition
also
again
moreover

Cause & effect:

because
as a result

Compare:

similarly
likewise

To change an idea or thought

(contrast):

however
although _____,
on the other hand
nevertheless
nonetheless
in spite of _____,
despite _____,
still
even so
besides
actually

To show importance or make an emphasis:

clearly,
indeed,
in fact,
of course,
truly

separate chronological sections of a paragraph:

first...second...third...

generally...furthermore...finally...

additionally...lastly...basically

...similarly...as well...

For a conclusion paragraph

or to signal conclusion:

in conclusion
to conclude
to summarize
in summary
therefore
indeed
thus

To signify a sequence

or time:

after
afterwards
at first
at last
before _____
finally
immediately
later
meanwhile
next
recently
then

When using an example or telling a personal experience:

for example
for instance
according to
specifically

Transitional chains, used to