

Transitions¹

SUU Writing Center

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Transitions connect two sentences, two paragraphs, or two major areas of analysis. They also link examples to the points in the paper that they are illustrating. Ideally, a transition eliminates choppiness and effectively introduces the writer's next point. Choppiness often occurs when a writer switches points or subjects without explanation. So when moving from one paragraph or point to another, **a writer uses an effective transition that emphasizes the relationship between the previous point and the approaching one.** Note the following examples:

Description of Example:	Example Sentence:	Explanation of Transition:
A writer is contrasting the educational backgrounds of Shakespeare and Milton.	<i>Unlike Milton, Shakespeare did not enjoy such extensive educational advantages.</i>	The words <i>unlike Milton</i> provide the reader with an effective transition because they contrast the two major topics discussed.
A writer is adding to his/her point about corrupt political campaigns.	<i>Equally dangerous to the character of a political campaign is so called "soft money."</i>	The word <i>equally</i> reminds the reader of that to which "soft money" is equally dangerous.
A writer is making a transition from his/her discussion of poor gun maintenance to his/her point about its consequences.	<i>Under such circumstances, a firearm accident is much more likely.</i>	The phrase <i>under such circumstances</i> effectively unifies the writer's analysis.

Some Helpful Words To Use In Making Transitions:

<u>To Show Contrast:</u>	<u>To Summarize:</u>	<u>To Show Cause and Effect:</u>
however but conversely instead in spite of that anyhow on the contrary on the other hand otherwise rather than still unlike yet	in in brief in other words in short in summary that is	accordingly as a consequence as a result consequently for this reason hence it follows that so/so that then therefore thus

¹ Some of the information on this tip sheet is courtesy of the Writing Center at the University of Illinois:
<http://www.english.uiuc.edu/cws/>.

<p><u>To Compare:</u> by comparison here again in the same way in a similar manner likewise similarly so too as also equally neither</p>	<p><u>To Introduce a Topic</u> as for concerning with respect to with regard to</p>	<p><u>To Explain/Give Reason:</u> actually admittedly because certainly for example in fact indeed really of course since that is</p>	<p><u>Remember Conjunctions:</u> and but or for nor so yet</p>
<p><u>To Add Information and Reasons:</u> add to this again also besides equally further furthermore in addition moreover yet another</p>	<p><u>To Show Various Conditions:</u> in this event under such circumstances this being so provided that in spite of none nonetheless at the same time despite even though unless otherwise</p>	<p><u>To Show Conviction:</u> after all at least at the same time apparently even so evidently certainly conceivably conclusively doubtless perhaps possibly presumably</p>	<p><u>To Show Concession:</u> admittedly after all all the same at any rate granted however in any case in spite of it is true that nevertheless</p>
<p><u>To Show Chronological Order:</u> afterwards later shortly subsequently in the meantime formerly at length finally previously when</p>	<p><u>Chronological Order Cont'd:</u> while was at last first, second, third, etc. already simultaneously by that time concurrently</p>	<p><u>To List or Show Logical Order:</u> for example for instance in particular to illustrate the one...the other this...that these...those here...there either...or neither...nor</p>	<p><u>Logical Order Cont'd:</u> whether...or though...yet wherever...there since...then the more...the more not only...but also</p>