

USING TRANSITIONS

Transitions are words and phrases that allow you to do many things:

- Help the reader **follow your line** of thought
- Show the **logical connections** between sentences, paragraphs, and sections of your paper
- **Explain** how the different parts of your paper fit together
- **Emphasize** a point
- Lend **unity** and **coherence** to your paper
- **Develop** and **summarize** your ideas and evidence
- **Mark relationships** in **time** and **space**

3 WAYS TO USE TRANSITIONS: Keywords, sentence structure, and transitional terms

1. KEYWORDS: Repeat keywords (and **synonyms** for these words) throughout your paper to remind your reader of your main ideas and themes. Include keywords in your thesis and topic sentences.

- *Example:*
A photograph displays a unique **moment**. To capture that **moment**...

2. SENTENCE STRUCTURE: Use sentence structure to emphasize connections.

You may have heard that you need to use grammatical structure similar in form and function within the same sentence. This is called **parallel structure**.

- *Example:*
Not Parallel:
Mary likes hiking, swimming, and to ride a bicycle.
Parallel:
Mary likes hiking, swimming, and riding a bicycle.

You can do something similar by repeating sentence structure between sentences. This will provide a transition between sentences within a paragraph.

- *Example:*
Because the citizens of the former West Germany lived through a generation of prosperity, they developed high expectations of material comfort. Because the citizens of the former East Germany lived through a generation of deprivation, they developed disdain for material values.











3. TRANSITIONAL TERMS AND PHRASES: Use transitional terms and phrases to connect and develop ideas.

- *Example:*
Without transitional terms:
Succeeding in college often is a challenge for students. Most colleges provide services designed to help students. They include peer tutoring and personal counseling. Colleges need to provide more services to help students succeed.

With transitional terms:

Succeeding in college often is a challenge for students. Therefore, most colleges provide services designed to help students, such as peer tutoring and personal counseling. However, colleges need to do more to help students succeed.

Transitional Terms and Phrases

If you want to...		use:
	introduce evidence or an example	for example, for instance, indeed, it is true, clearly, namely, to illustrate, such as, specifically, after all
	provide additional support or evidence, emphasize	additionally, again, also, and, as well, besides, equally important, further, furthermore, in addition, moreover, then, truly
	generalize	commonly, generally, in general, for the most part, on the whole, usually, typically
	show similarities	also, alike, in the same way, like, likewise, resembling, similarly
	show contrasts	although, but, even though, however, in contrast, conversely, in spite of, instead, nevertheless, nonetheless, on the one hand, on the other hand, on the contrary, otherwise, still, though, yet
	show cause and effect	accordingly, as a result, because, consequently, for this reason, hence, if so, since, so, therefore, thus
	situate in time	after, afterward, as long as, at last, at the present, at that time, before, currently, earlier, followed by, in the meantime, in the past, lately, later, meanwhile, now, preceded by, presently, since then, so far, subsequently, suddenly, then, this year, today, until, when, while
	show sequence or number	again, also, and, as well, finally, furthermore, first, second, third, in addition, last, moreover, next, too
	show relationships in space	above, adjacent, to, against, alongside, at a distance, beyond, here, in front, in back, in the rear, surrounding, yonder
	conclude, summarize	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, as we have seen, as I have said, therefore, thus, as had been noted, as a result