

Using Transitions in Your Writing

How can I help the audience follow my thought process in an essay?



Transitions are the glue in an essay.

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. Whether single words, quick phrases, or full sentences, they function as signs that tell readers how to think about, organize, and react to old and new ideas as they read through what you have written.



Transitions for Different Types of Connections:

RELATIONSHIP	TRANSITIONS
Similarity	also, in the same way, just as ... so too, likewise, similarly
Exception/ Contrast	but, however, in spite of, on the other hand, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding, in contrast, on the contrary, still, yet
Sequence/ 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

Transitions for Different Types of Connections:

RELATIONSHIP	TRANSITIONS
Emphasis	even, indeed, in fact, of course, truly
Place/ Position	above, adjacent, below, beyond, here, in front, in back, nearby, there
Cause and Effect	accordingly, consequently, hence, so, therefore, thus
Additional Support or Evidence	additionally, again, also, and, as well, besides, equally important, further, furthermore, in addition, moreover, then
Conclusion/ Summary	finally, in a word, in brief, briefly, in the end, in the final analysis, on the whole, thus, to conclude, to summarize, in sum, to sum up, in summary

Transition Practice- Fix all of the Mistakes:

1. The sailors prepared the ship to sail; otherwise, the dock workers loaded the cargo.
2. Her sister had a cold; however, Julie's family canceled the trip.
3. Oranges are good for you; nevertheless, they are full of vitamin C.
4. Two seats were left on the bus; similarly, most of the group had to wait for the next one.

Now it is your turn!

Check your Transitions!



1. Get out your essay and work on/edit your transitions.
2. Be prepared to pass your paper. With the paper handed to you, check the transitions in each part of the essay.
(about 5-8 minutes)

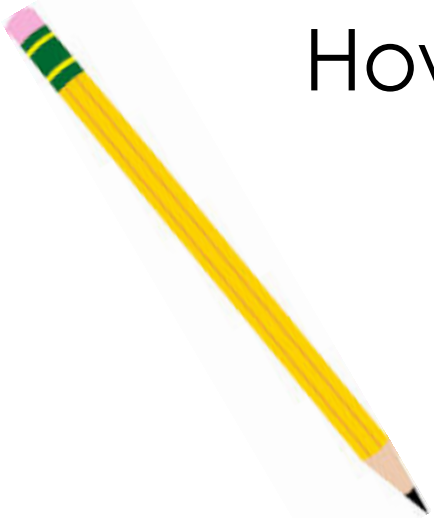
Do the transition make sense?

Can you follow what the author is trying to say?

Does the essay flow from one paragraph to another?

Citing Evidence in Your Writing

How can I support the claims that I make?



Transition Before Citing Evidence

- Before you can give a direct quote, you need a transition into it.
- You need to give a context as to why you are including the quote.

Some popular transitions before quotes are:

In the text it states, As the author states, For example,

According to the text, Based off the text, In paragraph ___ it says,

The text describes,

Putting it All Together!

Transition, Evidence, & Citation

In the first stanza it says, “this maiden she lived with no other thought than to love and be loved by me” (Poe).

Putting it All Together!

Transition, Evidence, & Citation

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Don't forget to use proper MLA in-text citations!
“Quote Here” (Author's Last Name #).

Now it is your turn!

Transition, Evidence, & Citation

1. Get out your essay and work on the evidence for your first body paragraph. (about 15-20 minutes)
2. Be prepared to pass your paper. With the paper handed to you, check the transition, evidence, and citation. (about 5 minutes)

Are they formatted correctly?

Does the transition make sense?

Does the evidence support the claim the author is trying to make based on the topic sentence for their paragraph?

Explaining Evidence in Your Writing

Why do I have to explain the evidence I
provide to support a claim?



Explaining a Direct Quote

- When we provide a quote it is IMPAIRITIVE that we explain it.
- You cannot assume that your audience understands or follows how the quote supports your claim. You must provide your analysis and thoughts about how the evidence proves your point.

Transition, Evidence, Citation & Explain!

In the first stanza it says, “this maiden she lived with no other thought than to love and be loved by me” (Poe).

As this quote shows, Poe makes Annabel Lee sound like she only ever lived for the narrator which leads me to believe that their love was an unhealthy, obsessive love.