

TRANSITION

Transitions in Essay Writing

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WORDS



Academic
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Workshop Overview

- ▶ The Function and Importance of Transitions
- ▶ Signs that you Might need to Work on Your Transitions
- ▶ Organization
- ▶ How Transitions Work
- ▶ Types of Transitions
- ▶ Transitional Expressions

The Function and Importance of Transitions

- ▶ Establishes logical connections between sentences, paragraphs, and sections of your papers.
- ▶ Transitions signal relationships between ideas.
- ▶ Provide the reader with directions for your ideas and overall paper.
- ▶ Effectively constructing each transition depends on your ability to identify words or phrases that will indicate the kind of relationships you want to convey.

Signs that you *Might* need to Work on Transitions

- ▶ Professor writes a comment like “choppy,” “jumpy,” “abrupt,” “flow,” “need signposts,” or “how is this related?” on your papers.
- ▶ Readers (professors, friends, or classmates) say they had trouble following your organization/train of thought.
- ▶ Tend to write the way you think. The brain often jumps from one idea to another.
- ▶ Wrote your paper in several “chunks” and pasted them together.
- ▶ Working on a group paper; the draft is created from pieces of several people’s writing put together.

Organization

- ▶ The clarity and effectiveness of your transitions will depend greatly on how well you have organized your paper
- ▶ Evaluate your paper's organization **before** you work on transitions
- ▶ Difficulty linking your ideas together in a coherent fashion?
 - ▶ transitions < organization

How transitions work

- ▶ Organization of written work includes 2 elements
 - ▶ The order in which you have chosen to present the different parts of your discussion or argument
 - ▶ The relationships you construct between these parts
- ▶ Transitions ≠ good organization
 - ▶ They **can** make your organization clearer and easier to follow

Types of transitions

Transitions between sections

- ▶ Include transitional paragraphs that summarize the information just covered
- ▶ Specify the relevance of info to the discussion in the next section.

Transitions between paragraphs

- ▶ Highlight a relationship that already exists
 - ▶ Summarizing the previous paragraph
 - ▶ Suggesting something from the content of the paragraph that follows.
- ▶ A word or two, a phrase, or sentence.
- ▶ Can be at the end of the first paragraph, at the beginning of the second paragraph, or in both places.

Transitions within paragraphs

- ▶ Act as cues
- ▶ Helping readers anticipate what is coming before they read it.
- ▶ Tend to be single words or short phrases

Transitions Between Sections

Example

These words refer back to the conclusions of the previous section.

Having established that the subjective experience of time is one of Mann's key concerns in *The Magic Mountain*, **it is now possible to explore** how this theme facilitates the novel's connection with World War I. The war itself is not narrated in the book, but rather hinted at as something awaiting Castorp beyond the final pages. In this way, Mann links his protagonist's subjective experience of time to more than just his illness; **it is also used** to explore the period leading up to the outbreak of war.

These words show that this section will investigate a different aspect of the same theme.

These words signal that the current section will build upon the arguments previously made

Transitions Within Paragraphs

Examples

Example: The main character displays strength and courage throughout the story. He shows fear and apprehension when he encounters the antagonist.

Revision: The main character displays strength and courage throughout the story. **However**, he shows fear and apprehension when he encounters the antagonist.

Rationale: The use of the transition helps show the contrast between the two ideas while also connecting them.

Example: In the novel, there are many tragic events that take place. The prince's untimely death occurs two days before the wedding.

Revision: In the novel, there are many tragic events that take place. **For example**, the prince's untimely death occurs two days before the wedding.

Rationale: The transition helps to connect the idea to the example that follows.

Transitions Between Paragraphs

Examples

Example:

P1: The author's work includes many examples of symbolism.

P 2: In the story, multiple themes are present.

Revision:

P1: The author's work includes many examples of symbolism.

P2: **In addition to the symbolism in the text,** multiple themes are present.

Rationale: The transition helps show how the two paragraphs are related and shows the reader the underlying similarities.

Example:

P1: In the book, many loud sounds prevented the characters from sleeping.

P2: The characters were unable to embark on their journey the next day.

Revision:

P1: In the book, many loud sounds prevented the characters from sleeping.

P2: **As a result** of their lack of sleep, the characters were unable to start their journey the next day.

Rationale: The transition helps connect the two paragraphs by showing that the event occurring in the second paragraph was a result of the event that was described in the first paragraph.

Transitional expressions

Logical Relationships

- ▶ Similarity
- ▶ Sequence/Order
- ▶ Exception/Contrast
- ▶ Time
- ▶ Example
- ▶ Emphasis
- ▶ Place/Position
- ▶ Cause and Effect
- ▶ Additional Support or Evidence
- ▶ Conclusion/Summary

Transitional Expressions

- ▶ Similarity
 - ▶ also, in the same way, just as ... so too, likewise, similarly
- ▶ Sequence/Order
 - ▶ first, second, third, ... next, then, finally
- ▶ Exception/Contrast
 - ▶ but, however, in spite of, on the one hand ... on the other hand, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding, in contrast, on the contrary, still, yet
- ▶ 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
- ▶ Emphasis
 - ▶ even, indeed, in fact, of course, truly

Transitional Expressions (cont.)

- ▶ Place/Position
 - ▶ above, adjacent, below, beyond, here, in front, in back, nearby, there
- ▶ Cause & 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 conclusion, in the end, in the final analysis, on the whole, thus, to conclude, to summarize, in sum, to sum up, in summary

Takeaways

Transitions are needed to:

- Establishes logical connections between
 1. Sentences
 2. Paragraphs
 3. sections of your papers
- Signal relationships between ideas.
- Provide the reader with directions

References

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Thank you!

Any questions?

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