

Crafting Transitions

Transitions help your reader understand the connections between ideas in your paper. There are two types of transitions: transitions *between sentences* in a paragraph and transitions *among paragraphs* in an essay. Transitions among paragraphs should occur at the beginning of a paragraph.

Transitional Expressions are words and phrases that signal connections among ideas. These expressions are useful both within and among paragraphs.

To show a relationship of...	Use...
Comparison	similarly, likewise, in the same way
Contrast	however, nevertheless, conversely, yet, but
Example	for example, for instance, namely, specifically
Addition	also, moreover, besides, furthermore
Concession	of course, certainly, granted
Result	therefore, thus, accordingly, so, consequently
Sequence	later, meanwhile, subsequently, before, then
Summary	hence, in short, in brief, in conclusion

Repetition of Key Words is most useful in transitioning among paragraphs. By repeating the key word or concept that characterizes the previous paragraph in the topic sentence of your next paragraph, you clearly indicate that you have moved to a new topic while at the same time demonstrating its relationship to the old topic.

Example: Sometimes the ideas in a paper seem disconnected or “don’t flow.”
Transitional expressions are *therefore* a great way to show your reader how the points of your argument are connected.

Of course, there are other ways *besides* transitional expressions to create transitions, such as repetition.

In the example above, note that transitional expressions in italics connect the ideas in the first mini-paragraph and guide the reader into the next paragraph’s topic sentence. Then, that topic sentence relies on the repetition of “transitional expressions” to show the relationship between the first topic (“expressions”) and the next (“repetition”).