



Transitions

"In writing, a transition is a word or phrase that connects one idea to another. This connection can occur within a paragraph or between paragraphs" (Monmouth University Tutoring and Writing Services "Transitions" <https://www.monmouth.edu/resources-for-writers/documents/transitions.pdf/>).

How do I create a transition?

Transitions organize your thoughts, focus on the reader, and are the key to writing flow.

The three elements of a transition:

- **Signpost**
 - These are the words and phrases that tell the reader where you are going and what you will be doing.
- **Connection**
 - We have to make sure that we create a sentence or clause that helps to connect the thoughts together.
- **Topic Sentence and Conclusion**
 - A topic sentence will be the first or second sentence of your paragraph that details what you are talking about and why.
 - Concluding sentences are also important, as they need to clearly show that your paragraph is ending. Wrap up each paragraph's argument clearly and concisely, as it will help show your reader that the next paragraph and idea will begin soon.

Signposts

Similar	Also,	In the same way,	Likewise,	Similarly,		
Contrast	However,	On the other hand,	But/Yet/Still,	On the contrary,	In spite of this/ that,	Nonetheless/ Nevertheless,
Order and Time	First/ Second/ Third/etc.,	Above/ Below,	Earlier/ Later,	Then/ Next,	Finally,	Simultaneously /Currently,
Example	For example,	Namely,	Specifically,	To illustrate,	To highlight,	
Emphasize	Indeed,	In fact,	Of course,	Importantly,	Essentially,	
Cause and Effect	Therefore,	Thus,	So,	Hence,	Thusly,	Consequently,
Adding On	Also,	Again,	As well (as),	Additionally,	In addition,	Further(more)/ Moreover,
Finishing Up	Finally,	Thus,	To conclude,	In summary/ Summarily,	In conclusion,	In brief/Briefly,

Connections

Most of the time, a singular word or phrase will not do the whole job of signposting. While signposting words help clarify what you are doing, you must include a sentence or phrase that will make the connection clearer.

- My dog went outside yesterday. While in the yard, she kept barking and barking. **Therefore**,(*why?*)..... I fell down the stairs.
 - While there is a signpost here (“Therefore”), these two sentences are not fully linked together.
 - What phrase, dependent clause, or sentence/s could be used here to clarify the connection between these two sentences?
 - There is not *one* right answer. Be creative!

TRY HERE:

- Ocean pollution continues to harm animal and plant life across the world. **On the other hand**,(*why?*)..... Dale does not care.

TRY HERE:

Topic Sentences and Conclusions

The topic sentence will begin your paragraph, detailing what you are focusing on, why, and (*sometimes*) how.

To draft one, ask yourself:

- Why am I writing this paragraph?
- What does it have to do with my argument/research?
- How does it relate to my thesis?

Topic sentences can be essential to your transitions.

- Topic sentences can start with a signposting word, explaining where your thoughts are going and why.

Concluding sentences are very similar. They “answer” your topic sentence by summarizing the importance of the paragraph and relating it to the thesis in some way.

To draft one, ask yourself:

- What was the point of writing this portion of the paper?
- What did I prove in this paragraph?
- How did this make my thesis stronger?

Concluding sentences can be essential to your transitions.

- Concluding sentences can lead directly into a signposting word and transition sentence, whether you end the paragraph on the transition or begin the next with a transition depends on whichever reads clearly.