

# Transitions

**Purpose:** Transitions are important for creative cohesiveness when presenting ideas within paragraphs or when beginning a new paragraph. Transitions provide the reader with directions on how to piece together the writer's ideas into a logically coherent argument. Transitions are not just verbal decorations that embellish a paper by making it sound or read better. They are words with particular meanings that tell the reader to think and react in a particular way to the writer's ideas.

The organization of the writer's work includes two elements: (1) **The Order** in which the different parts of the discussion or argument appear, and (2) **The Relationships** among these parts. Transitions cannot substitute for good organization, but they can make the organization clearer and easier to follow.

## Three Types of Transitions

**Transitions among sections**—Particularly in longer works, it may be necessary to include transitional paragraphs that summarize for the reader the information just covered and specify the relevance of this information to the discussion in the following section.

Example: Although all of the aforementioned existing conditions negatively affecting the environment are challenging to solve, there are many ways to begin constructing a plan to fix these issues.

**Transitions among paragraphs**—If you have done a good job of arranging paragraphs so that the content of one leads logically to the next, the transition will highlight a relationship that already exists by summarizing the previous paragraph and suggesting something of the content of the paragraph that follows. A transition between paragraphs can be a word or two (“however”, “for example”, “similarly”), a phrase, or a sentence. Transitions must appear at the beginning of the new paragraph.

Example: However, unlike dogs, cats are more relaxed in personality.

**Transitions within paragraphs**—As with transitions among sections and paragraphs, transitions within paragraphs act as cues by helping readers to anticipate what is coming before they read it. Within paragraphs, transitions tend to be single words or short phrases.

Example: It's clear that Tupac Shakur still influences pop culture. For instance, a recent Adidas shoe commercial uses an excerpt from Tupac's poetry book for narration.

## How to Choose the Appropriate Transition

- 1) To show contrast between ideas: **on the contrary, however, notwithstanding.**
- 2) To denote time: **after, among, before.**
- 3) To add to the previous point in the essay: **furthermore, besides, moreover.**
- 4) To show similarity or comparison among ideas: **likewise, similarly, in like fashion.**
- 5) To concede a point in the essay: **although, at least, at any rate.**
- 6) To emphasize a point: **indeed, above all, truly.**
- 7) To bring attention to details: **especially, specifically, in particular.**
- 8) To show consequence or a result: **with the result that, so that, consequently.**
- 9) To illustrate a point or to provide examples: **for instance, for example, to illustrate.**
- 10) To make a suggestion in the essay: **to this end, for this purpose, with this in mind.**
- 11) To sum up the points: **finally, therefore, consequently.**