

Using Transitions

Transitions serve a variety of functions. They can alert the reader that additional examples or evidence is forthcoming. They can introduce a shift or contrasting idea. They can help emphasize a point. They can introduce the causes or consequences of an action. They can indicate chronology or a sequence of events. They can also conclude or summarize ideas. Ultimately, transitions help make your essay more cohesive, organized, and easier to read by connecting your ideas and showing their relationships. Below are examples of transitional words and phrases, separated according to their function.

Showing Cause and Effect	Demonstrating a Contrast	Showing a Comparison
Therefore	However	In the same way
As a result	In contrast	Similarly
Hence	But	Likewise
Thus	Although	Also
Consequently	Despite	Just as
So	Conversely	
Because	In spite of	
Accordingly	On the contrary	

Showing Emphasis or Elaboration	Indicating Time or Sequence	Giving an Example
Primarily	First, second, third...	For example
More/Most importantly	Before or after	To illustrate
Chiefly	At last	For instance
In fact	Eventually	Namely
By all means	Finally	Specifically

Undoubtedly	Then	To demonstrate
Certainly	Immediately	As an example
Surely	Earlier, during, or later	

Giving Additional Support or Evidence	To Indicate Place or Position	To Conclude or Summarize
Additionally	Above/Below	Finally
Also	Here/There	In conclusion
As well	Adjacent to	In summary
Furthermore	Beyond	To conclude
Moreover	Nearby	Briefly
In addition	In front/in back	Thus
Then	Opposite to	On the whole
Even more		In the end
Next		

Resources

Auburn University Writing Center. "Transitional Words and Phrases." *Writing Center Resources*, 2023, <https://auburn.edu/academic/provost/university-writing/resources/>

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "Transitions." *The Writing Center*, 2023, <https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/transitions/>