

## ESSAY WRITING: TRANSITIONAL DEVICES

Transitional devices are like bridges between the parts of your paper. They are

- cues that help the reader to interpret the ideas that your paper develops;
- words or phrases that help carry a thought from one sentence to another, from one idea to another, or from one paragraph to another;
- link sentences and paragraphs together smoothly so that there are no abrupt jumps or breaks between ideas.

Here is a list of some common transitional devices that can be used to cue readers in a given way, leading them to make certain connections or assumptions.

### **adding**

and, again, and then, besides, equally important, finally, further, furthermore, nor, too, next, lastly, what is more, moreover, in addition

### **comparing**

whereas, but, yet, on the other hand, however, nevertheless, on the contrary, by comparison, compared to, balanced against, although, conversely, meanwhile, after all, in contrast, although this may be true

### **proving**

because, for, since, for the same reason, obviously, evidently, furthermore, moreover, besides, indeed, in fact, in addition, in any case, that is

### **showing exception**

yet, still, however, nevertheless, in spite of, despite, of course, once in a while, sometimes

### **showing cause/reason**

because, since, due to, because of, so, therefore, thus, hence, as a result of

### **showing time**

immediately, thereafter, soon, finally, then, later, previously, formerly, first (second, etc.), next, and then

### **repeating**

in brief, as mentioned before, as has been noted

### **emphasizing**

definitely, extremely, obviously, in fact, indeed, absolutely, unquestionably, without any doubt, certainly, undeniably, without reservation

### **showing sequence**

first, second, third, and so forth, A, B, C, and so forth, next, then, following this, after, afterward, subsequently, finally, consequently, previously, before this, next, and then

### **providing examples**

for example, for instance, in this case, in another case, on this occasion, in this situation, take the case of, to demonstrate, to illustrate, as an illustration, to illustrate

### **summarizing/concluding**

in brief, on the whole, summing up, to conclude, in conclusion, as I have shown, as I have said, hence