



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES

Writing Skills Improvement Program

Tips for Using Transitions

How do you create fluidity between ideas in your paragraphs? Begin by reviewing the organization.

- Is the order logical?
- Have you explained your claims and provided evidence to back them up?
- Have you told the reader everything they need to know to understand your train of thought?

Often, explaining and showing examples bridges statements and helps your ideas flow smoothly. If you would still like to create stronger transitions, consider the following:

Some Transitional Expressions

To express:	You can use:
Contrast	but, however, on the other hand, on the contrary, in contrast, still, nevertheless, regardless, instead, though
Cause/Effect	so, therefore, thus, consequently, for this reason, as a result, accordingly, then
Time sequence	first, second, third, last, finally, afterward, now, then, again, soon, formerly, eventually, subsequently
Restatement	In other words, in short, in summary, that is, again
Emphasis	In fact, indeed, of course, certainly, after all, surely, actually, even, as a matter of fact
Addition	Furthermore, moreover, likewise, also, in addition, besides, similarly
Summary	In conclusion, on the whole, all in all, in summary, to sum up
Example	For example, for instance, specifically, to illustrate, as demonstrated in

A Word of Caution:

Overuse of these phrases can have the opposite effect you're looking for and actually interrupt the flow of ideas. Limit your use when possible and focus instead on *developing your ideas*.

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