Transitions

What are Transitions?

Transitions are words or phrases that connect paragraphs together. Transitions unify disconnected sentences and help readers move from one point to the next.

When should Transitions be used?

The goal of transitions are to help readers understand that paragraphs are not distinctly separate points, but that they instead work together, referencing one another to reach a larger, unified point. Because transitions work as connectors, they should be used to continue one paragraph or point where another one left off. If you are having a really hard time transitioning from one point to another, then it is likely that your argument is not cohesive. Your support or main points may not belong together.

How to use Transitions?

Pick key phrases from the previous paragraph and rephrase them in your transition so there can be an obvious progression of ideas for the reader. If your new paragraph is going to talk about the side effects of smoking, you should use a transition to tie that paragraph to your previous paragraph about teen smoking.

- Example:
  - Michael Jackson brought passion to his pop music and sense of style to his generation.
  - Although Michael Jackson was the King of Pop, the rise of new pop artists like Lady Gaga and Katy Perry change the way we view the genre.

  If this were a paper on the genre of pop music and the artists who contributed to its creation, the sentence above would have transitioned the reader from learning about Michael Jackson’s contribution to the field to how current artists affect the genre.

Transitions may be used at the start of a new paragraph or at the end of the previous one.

Transitions do not necessarily have to be sentences that connect paragraphs; they can also be words that improve the flow of a sentence. These are called transitional devices. They link sentences together smoothly so that there is a clear development of ideas. Without transitional devices, sentences can sound choppy and readers can become confused.

- Examples of Transitional words:
  - And, again, then, furthermore, however, moreover, in addition, first, last, whereas, but, yet, nevertheless, however, although, because, in fact, obviously, besides, since, in spite of, despite, previously, consequently, hence, in conclusion.