

TRANSITIONS

PS-24

Transitional devices are like bridges between parts of your paper. They are cues that help the reader to interpret ideas in the way that you, as a writer, want them to understand.

Transitional devices help you carry over a thought from one sentence to another, from one idea to another, or from one paragraph to another with words or phrases. In addition, transitional devices link your sentences and paragraphs together smoothly, so there are no abrupt jumps or breaks between ideas.

There are several types of transitional devices, and each category leads your reader to make certain connections or assumptions about the areas you are connecting. Some lead your reader forward and imply the "building" of an idea or thought, while others make your reader compare ideas or draw conclusions from the preceding thoughts.

Here is a list of some common transitional devices that can be used to cue your reader in a given way.

Adding a point:

Furthermore

Besides

Finally

In addition

Emphasis:

Above all

Indeed

In fact

In other words

Most important

Time:

Then

Afterwards

Eventually

Next

Immediately

Now

Meanwhile

Later

Previously

Often

Already

Since then, Usually

Space:

Next to

TRANSITIONS

PS-24

Across
From
Below
Above
Nearby
Inside
Beyond
Between
Surrounding

Cause and Effect:

Consequently
As a Result
Therefore
Thus

Examples:

For example
For instance

Contrast:

But
However
In contrast
Instead
Still
Nevertheless
On the Contrary
On the other hand
Though
Unfortunately

Similarity:

Like
Also
As
Likewise
Then too
Similarly

Concession:

Although
Yet
Of course

TRANSITIONS

PS-24

After all

Granted

While it is true

Conclusions:

Therefore

To sum up

In brief

In general

In conclusion

For these reasons

In retrospect

Finally