

ENG 92W/ 1101  
**Framing and Developing Your Argument:  
 Transitional Words and Phrases to Introduce  
 the Text**

Transitional words and phrases frame your argument and are placed at key points in your paragraphs and essays to lead your reader “follow you thinking” from point to point, from paragraph to paragraph, and, finally, through the beginning, middle, and end of your writing. You must PRACTICE these transitions before you retake the exam. This list is only a sampling of the many transitional words and phrases you can use to transform your writing. These focus on helping you flow through YOUR own ideas. They can go at the beginning of paragraphs and in concluding sentences.

**Flow Words to Introduce a Quotation or Paraphrase**

- |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| The [writer] says, . . .     | The [[writer] rejects, . . .   |
| The [writer] notes, . . .    | The [writer] asserts, . . .    |
| The [writer] believes, . . . | The [writer] admits, . . .     |
| The [writer] observes, . . . | The [writer] cautions, . . .   |
| The [writer] declares, . . . | The [writer] maintains, . . .  |
| The [writer] suggests, . . . | The [writer] insists, . . .    |
| The [writer] confirms, . . . | The [writer] emphasizes, . . . |
| The [writer] shows, . . .    | The [writer] contends, . . .   |
| The [writer] mentions, . . . | The [writer] implies, . . .    |

**A note on punctuation, the above are for quotations. Notice the comma (tag):**

Quotation; Meyer states, “Music not only transports our minds, it creates connections between ideas we wouldn’t understand otherwise.”

Paraphrase: Meyer implies music is powerful enough to transport and help us see relationships between thoughts we might miss in other situations.

**Flow Words to Introduce Paraphrases after Quotations**

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| What this means is.....               | More simply.....                                 |
| In other words.....                   | In short, .....                                  |
| What I understand this to say is..... | To me, this means.....                           |
| I interpret this to mean.....         | My understanding of this is.....                 |
| To put it in my own words, .....      | This relates to my argument because it says..... |
| What this says to me is.....          |  |

**Remember:**

- Use the author’s last name for [writer] for variety.  
 Quotations should be embedded within your ideas. They do not typically begin or end a paragraph.
- Paraphrases must follow quotations
- Paraphrases can stand alone but credit to the author is required.