

First Year Writing-OER
Writing through the Rhetorical Modes
Transitional Words and Phrases
Frame Your Argument:
Beginnings, Middles, and Ends

Transitional words and phrases frame your argument and are placed at key points in your paragraphs and essays to lead your reader from point to point, from paragraph to paragraph, and, finally, from the beginning to the end of your writing. This list is helpful though by no means all of them.

Transitions to Move From Idea to Idea:

To transition into your thesis statement:

- I believe.....; In my opinion.....; My belief is that.....; My argument is this:.....; I argue.....; Experience has led me to believe that.....; After considering these ideas, I suggest.....(a change);

To begin a body paragraph:

- to begin with (first argument); equally important (true, valid); in addition; next; furthermore; beyond that; what is more; finally (last argument); lastly(last paragraph)

To emphasize a point *within* a paragraph:

- in fact; in truth; more importantly; most important of all; most of all; the main/problem/issue is; without question; much more; also; moreover; above all; indeed; actually; in essence; furthermore; indeed; in truth; in fact;

To introduce details and examples *within* a paragraph:

- for example; as an example; for instance; a case in point; specifically; more specifically; such as; in fact; in particular

Transitions for Rhetorical Strategies:

To compare (similarities):

- also; as well; both; in the same way; likewise; similarly

To contrast (disagreement):

- while it is true that; although this may be true; although; even though; despite this; on the other hand; however; be that as it may; nevertheless; yet; whereas

To show cause and effect:

- as a result; because, consequently, hence, thereby, therefore, thus

To introduce a narrative:

- To illustrate this, my friend....; Consider this example of...; I have seen this in action...; here is one case;

To summarize the main idea at the end of a paragraph (concluding sentences)

- hence; therefore; thus; consequently; and so; for this reason;

To summarize the ideas with at the end of essay (concluding paragraphs)

- In closing; in conclusion; in brief; in short; to sum up; all in all; on the whole

