

**ENG 092**  
**Framing Your Argument:**  
**Transitional Words and Phrases**

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 is a partial list; there are many to find on your own. Practice using these words and phrases in class to gain confidence in their correct usage in your writing.

**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

**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 set up a paraphrase:**

- according to; This means that.....; in other words; put it more simply, ....

**To set up a quotation:**

- as (author) states; according to (author); the article states; as the writer says,.....; The writer clearly states: .....

**To set up a paraphrase *after* a quotation:**

- In other words; what this passage means is; put more simply; to clarify; this is important because; this supports my point because;

**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