



Creating Transitions in Your Writing

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Transitions between sentences and paragraphs help to unify a paper. Rather than leaving individual points secluded in their own sentences and paragraphs, transitions help to relate all points and allow you to reference each point in relation to another. This enables readers to recognize that all points relate back to the main argument of the paper: the thesis.

Transitioning your sentences allows readers to follow your points from one sentence to another. These transitional expressions show the relations between sentences. Expressions can be used to add information (*moreover, besides, finally, in addition*); to compare (*similarly, also*); to provide counter-examples (*however, in contrast, although*); to repeat (*in other words, in summary*); and to prove cause and effect (*consequently, therefore, as a result*).

Transitioning your paragraphs is crucial to continuing an argument from a previous paragraph. This is easily done by using important phrases from previous paragraphs and repeating them in the next paragraph. You should be careful to write transitions that correspond specifically with two paragraphs rather than a transition that could connect any two general paragraphs.

Here is an example of revising to incorporate a better transition between two sentences, creating a more logical flow for the reader. This example comes from a section of the Purdue University Online Writing Lab (owl.english.purdue.edu) titled "Writing Transition Sentences."

Before:

Fearing for the loss of Danish lands, Christian IV signed the Treaty of Lubeck, effectively ending the Danish phase of the 30 Years War. **But then something else significant happened. The Swedish intervention began.**

After:

Fearing for the loss of more Danish lands, Christian IV signed the Treaty of Lubeck, effectively ending the Danish phase of the 30 Years War. **Shortly after Danish forces withdrew, the Swedish intervention began.**

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