TRANSITIONS

WHAT IS THIS AND WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT

Transitions can be found in various parts of writing including between paper sections, between specific paragraphs, and even within those paragraphs connecting sentences and phrases. As a writer, you should pay attention to your transitions because it can help with the flow and coherency of your paper. Transitions can assist in relating topics throughout your writing and can help the overall organization of your work. By using transitions, you are able to organize your train of thought in order to make your paper as effective as possible. Transitions are also a tool that writers use to help readers make connections between information they have previously read and information they are about to receive.

TYPES OF TRANSITIONS

Transitions in writing have two main parts; part one is to review previous information presented by the author, and part two is to introduce new information the reader is about to receive. Both of these parts are necessary in any of the three main types of transitions that are used in writing. There are transitions that are used to connect separate parts of a paper, transitions that help with connecting paragraphs within a paper, and then there are transitions that occur within specific paragraphs used to relate ideas to one another.

1. Transitions between sections: These transitions are generally used in longer works to help create a cohesive feel to the work as a whole. While using transitions to link sections of a paper, you will most likely use longer phrases or short paragraphs that show a direct relation between the previous section and the future section. Using effective transitions in longer works will give your information a logical progression and help the reader follow along.

Examples of possible transitional phrases:

- As previously stated...
- To summarize...
- Despite earlier investigations...
- As I have said...
2. **Transitions between paragraphs:** Transitions used between paragraphs are used most effectively when they are used to summarize previous information and logically introduce the new ideas. These types of transitions often emphasize what the previous information and the new information have in common or how they differ. Transitions used between paragraphs can be found at the end of paragraphs, the beginning of paragraphs, or both. These transitions are generally longer phrases making a distinct connection.

   Examples of possible transitional phrases:
   - On the one hand/on the other hand...
   - In addition to...
   - In contrast...
   - To sum up...

3. **Transitions within a paragraph:** Transitions used within paragraphs are designed to link similar ideas in an efficient way. These transitions are usually one word or short phrases because you do not want to take away from your content by focusing too much on a transitional phrase.

   Examples of possible transitional words and phrases:
   - *Terms used to show addition or repetition:* Also, too, again, in addition to, furthermore, further, in other words, that is, as I have said...
   - *Terms used for contrast and comparison:* Similarly, likewise, but, yet, or, however, in contrast...
   - *Terms used for cause and effect:* so, therefore, accordingly, thus, thereby, as a result, hence...
   - *Terms used for clarification:* for example, for instance, to be sure, in the case of...

**HOW TO EDIT FOR TRANSITIONS**

The best way to work with transitions is by first establishing a clear organization of your paper. Once you are able to see how the paragraphs will progress, you will be able to link them logically. The specific phrase or transition you use will be based on how the paragraphs relate, so it is essential that you establish a clear organization first.