

TRANSITIONS AND HOW TO USE THEM

Not only do you need to show the relationships between the ideas within a paragraph, but you must also move naturally between major points in different paragraphs. This ability to make successful transitions between ideas contributes to the overall flow and coherence of your paper. When it comes to reinforcing the links between paragraphs, some methods include using a key word from the preceding paragraph, reminding the reader of your thesis, or beginning a paragraph with a sentence that refers to an idea developed in a previous paragraph.

For example, imagine you are writing a paper arguing that the presidency of John F. Kennedy was one of the most important in all of American history. You have just finished writing a paragraph discussing Kennedy's role in promoting the First Man on the Moon program as a particularly important facet of American foreign policy. However, you want to shift the focus of the essay away from foreign policy issues toward domestic issues such as Kennedy's impact on the Civil Rights movement. How do you link these two very disparate topics?

Here is one suggestion:

While Kennedy challenged NASA to put an American on the moon by the end of the decade, Kennedy's presidency faced challenges of its own from the Civil Rights Movement.

Or, you could try it this way:

While Kennedy's promotion of the Man in Space program was an important part of United States foreign policy during his presidency, the Civil Rights movement proved to be the most important domestic issue facing Kennedy during his brief years in the Oval Office.

In both of these examples, the writer uses a particular concept to serve as a hinge joining the two topics—a *hook*. The first transition focuses on challenges, showing that Kennedy both issued and was faced by challenges during his presidency. The second pivots on importance, linking the space program and civil rights as similarly key issues despite their different spheres of foreign and domestic policy. Both are succinct and clever transitions.

In addition to such conceptual hooks, simple transition words and phrases can help aid the process of linking ideas within and between paragraphs. The following chart outlines some common transition words, as well as their logical contexts.

<p>ADDITION</p> <p>also besides furthermore in addition moreover too what is more as well as</p>	<p>CONSEQUENCE</p> <p>accordingly as a result consequently hence so then thus therefore</p>	<p>GENERALIZING</p> <p>as a rule for the most part generally in general usually ordinarily</p>	<p>DIVERSION</p> <p>by the way incidentally</p>
<p>CONTRAST</p> <p>however by contrast conversely instead on the other hand contrarily rather yet nevertheless this fact notwithstanding even so otherwise</p>	<p>COMPARISON</p> <p>likewise in the same way in comparison comparatively speaking similarly next</p>	<p>SEQUENCE</p> <p>afterwards at the same time for now in time later on then subsequently first/second etc. at first first of all finally in turn to begin with</p>	<p>RESTATEMENT</p> <p>in essence in other words namely that is that is to say</p>
<p>ILLUSTRATION</p> <p>for example for instance for one thing</p>	<p>INTENSIFICATION</p> <p>indeed in fact simply stated</p>	<p>SUMMARY</p> <p>in closing to sum up on the whole in brief</p>	