TRANSITIONS: SIGNALS FOR YOUR READER

Transitions are signals or cues in writing that show the reader the relationship between one idea and the next. Transitions help the reader see that a certain line of reasoning is being continued, developed, challenged, changed, or summarized. They make writing flow and make it easier for the reader to understand ideas. Use a transition to link paragraphs by putting a transition word or phrase in the first sentence of the new paragraph. Transitions are also used to link sentences within a paragraph.

CUES THAT LEAD THE READER FORWARD: "HERE'S MORE ON THIS IDEA."

- Again
- In addition
- Above all
- Likewise
- In other words
- Next
- Equally important
- First, second, finally
- Furthermore
- Similarly
- Moreover
- Besides

CUES THAT SHOW THE READER CONTRAST: "HERE'S A DIFFERENT IDEA."

- However
- On the contrary
- Yet
- In contrast
- But
- Although this is true
- Nevertheless
- Conversely
- On the other hand
- Instead

CUES THAT SHOW CAUSE AND EFFECT: "HERE'S THE RESULT OF THAT."

- Thus
- Therefore
- As a result
- Consequently
- For that reason

CUES THAT INTRODUCE A SUMMARY OR CONCLUSION:

- In brief
- In conclusion
- To sum up
- Therefore
- In general
- In short
- Finally