



UNIVERSITY OF
**DETROIT
MERCY**

Transitions

<https://writingcenter.udmercy.edu/> (for resources)

<http://udm.mywconline.com/> (for appointments)



The Writing Center
DETROIT MERCY

What is a Transition?

- ⇒ A transition is a word, phrase, or sentence that links ideas together, either between sentences or between paragraphs.
- ⇒ In this way, everything is well connected, linked, and secure around the writer's thesis, between the body paragraphs' main ideas, and overall critical thinking goals.
- ⇒ In writing, transitions should include parts of all ideas they are attempting to link together.
- ⇒ Transitions link ideas together between words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs.

Common Transitional Devices

- ⇒ There are numerous transitional words and phrases. Some common examples are:
 - **Coordinating Conjunctions:** For, and, nor, but, or, yet, so (remember FANBOYS)
 - **Adverbs:** additionally, finally, obviously, previously, etc.
 - **Conjunctive Adverbs:** however, therefore, nevertheless, etc.
 - **Subordinating Conjunctions:** because, although, whereas, since, after, etc.
 - **Other Combinations:** either/or, neither/nor, lists (first, second, third, etc.)
 - **Phrases:** Another thing to consider; on the contrary (prepositional); Smith (2015) also agrees with Jones and Miller (2013).

Example of Using a Transitional Word

He is interested in visiting Canada; **however**, he doesn't have a passport.

- ⇒ ***However** indicates there is some sort of exception or condition to his desire to travel that is not yet met. This transitional device is necessary for the reader to understand the complexity of the situation being communicated and that something needs to be done to accomplish it.*

Example of Using a Transitional Phrase

Smith (2015) **also agrees with Jones and Miller** (2013) that developing good study habits in high school will make the transition into college easier.

- ⇒ *Information from Jones and Miller has already been cited in the essay, so **adding the connection to Smith here** will help reinforce the validity of the assertion about study habits; therefore, connecting the two sources with this transition shows the linkage and reinforces the argument.*

Example of Using a Transitional Sentence Between Paragraphs

Another consideration to be made in the formula for success in college, besides developing better study habits, is a student's ability to manage and plan her time outside of the classroom. To establish her point, Smith (2015) cites Garcia's (2012) study regarding participation in extracurricular activities in college (p. 54) as important expenditures of time. Smith (2015) further develops the idea that academic productivity is reinforced by non-academic, peer-centered engagement but specifically warns that student athletes do not experience the same release of pressure from peer-team-member engagement while playing on a varsity team.

- ⇒ *This transitional sentence shows how the author is building upon the previous points made. They are adding on to their argument (**another consideration**) and further developing their argument.*