Transitions in Writing

*Using transition words or phrases will greatly increase the fluency of your paper, thus helping the reader understand your argument better. Transition words come at the beginning of the sentence and are used to specifically guide the reader to the point you are making. There are 13 different groups when it comes to transition words, and your job is to understand 7 of these groups, the words that are in the groups, and how you can effectively use them in your writing.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Illustration**  | Thus, for example, for instance, namely, to illustrate, in other words, in particular, specifically, such as. |

Illustration words are used to expand upon a point by showing the reader something that will help explain your argument.

Example: There have been many times when the United States’ government has organized coops in order to place a dictator of their choice in charge. For instance, in 1953 the United States overthrew a democratically elected leader in Iran to replace them with a dictator.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Contrast** | On the contrary, contrarily, notwithstanding, but, however, nevertheless, in spite of, in contrast, yet, on one hand, on the other hand, rather, or, nor, conversely, at the same time, while this may be true. |

These words are used to show a difference between one sentence to another.

Example: Some people claim that the climate change we are experiencing is a result of a natural cycle. While this may be true, it is impossible to ignore how much harm we do to the environment by our excessive carbon emissions.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Addition** | And, in addition to, furthermore, moreover, besides, than, too, also, both-and, another, equally important, first, second, etc., again, further, last, finally, not only-but also, as well as, in the second place, next, likewise, similarly, in fact, as a result, consequently, in the same way, for example, for instance, however, thus, therefore, otherwise. |

These words are used to continue adding facts about an argument.

Example: There is no conclusive evidence that supports the idea of climate change. Furthermore, it seems interest groups are the ones who insist upon the idea the most, which makes one question the validity of the argument.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Time** | After, afterward, before, then, once, next, last, at last, at length, first, second, etc., at first, formerly, rarely, usually, another, finally, soon, meanwhile, at the same time, for a minute, hour, day, etc., during the morning, day, week, etc., most important, later, ordinarily, to begin with, afterwards, generally, in order to, subsequently, previously, in the meantime, immediately, eventually, concurrently, simultaneously. |

Example: We are going to the mall to buy some clothes. Afterwards, we are going to get some ice-cream.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Concession** | Although, at any rate, at least, still, thought, even though, granted that, while it may be true, in spite of, of course. |

These words are used to respond to a point that seemingly makes sense, but the next sentence is going to present evidence that suggests that the opposing argument is not as strong as the one you are making.

Example: The rides at Six Flags break down a lot. Although this is true, it contains so many rides that one would find it hard to have that negatively impact his/her day.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Emphasis** | Above all, indeed, truly, of course, certainly, surely, in fact, really, in truth, again, besides, also, furthermore, in addition. |

Example: It is very dry in Death Valley. In fact, it is proven to be one of the driest places in the world.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Consequence Or Result** | So that, with the result that, thus, consequently, hence, accordingly, for this reason, therefore, so, because, since, due to, as a result, in other words, then. |

These transition words help make some type of conclusion.

Example: There were three bombs threats in a row at Voorhees High School. For this reason, students are not allowed in the building until 7:35.