

Unit Two: Argumentative Essays

- The Importance of Transition Words.
 - Transition words allow your thoughts to flow smoothly from one paragraph to the next.
 - Transition words allow your ideas to move easily from one sentence to the next.



Youtube It

- Click on the following links to listen to an interesting mini-lecture about transitions and their importance in writing.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gku-vSf9Rk>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLo5g8eW1os>



Transition Words in Agreement

- This simply means that the transition word continues in agreement with what you have already said.
- You want to use these transition words and phrases to enhance your argument.
- Examples of agreement transitions are the following:
also, additionally, in fact, as well, in addition to, and moreover.



Transitions for Counterclaim

- Remember, a counterclaim is an argument that would be used against another argument.
- Words like *but*, *on the other hand*, *conversely*, *whereas*, *and however* go against an argument.
- You want to use these words to refute the other side's counterclaim.
- Keep in mind the comma goes after the transition word.



Closing Transitions

- Words like *finally*, *to conclude*, and *in the end* are closing transitions.
- Use these in the final paragraph of your essay.



Transition Word Lists

- Please click on the following links to get an idea of the variety of transition words and phrases that are at your disposal when writing.
- <http://www.smart-words.org/linking-words/transition-words.html>
- <https://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/Transitions.html>



Transitions and Commas

- The comma generally goes after the transition word.
- Example: However, the author of the second passage disagrees.



The Key Transition Word

- *However* will be the key transition word for you.
- *However* will reveal where your side of the argument starts.
- Remember, you give the counterclaim first (first half of the paragraph), then you reveal why it is wrong with your argument (second half of paragraph).
- Counterclaim. *However*, then your side.
- See notes on Argumentative Essay Paragraph Development (slides 9 – 13).
- The key transition word “however” can be used to show sophisticated writing. It allows you to use a semi-colon.
 - Example: I went to the store; however, my brother went to the game.



Notes on Paragraph Development

- Introduction
 - State what the argument is about
 - State why it is important
 - State your side
 - Example: This essay will reveal some reasons for the death penalty and point out the problems with those reasons. (Against the death penalty in this example).



Notes on Paragraph Development

One of the three supporting paragraphs: Reason One

State reason against you. Some people say. . .

Provide author support against you.

However, your side of argument supported by author.

Finish with your ideas that go with author support.



Notes on Paragraph Development

- Second of three supporting paragraphs: Reason Two
 - Reason against you. Some people say. . .
 - Author support against you.
 - However, author support for you.
 - Finish with your reasoning that goes with it.



Notes on Paragraph Development

- Third paragraph of three supporting paragraphs:
Reason Three
 - Reason against you. Some people say. . .
 - Author support against you.
 - However, author support for you.
 - Finish with your reasoning that goes along with it.



Notes on Paragraph Development

- Conclusion
 - Restate your side
 - Restate your three main reasons why
 - State why you are on the right side of the argument

