**Transitions**

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| **Addition** | further in addition besides againequally important  | first, second finally, lastlyfurthermore moreover additionally |
| **Comparison** | just as . . . so too doesa similar x another x likesimilarly  | comparably in the same way likewise |
| **Contrast** | on the other hand on the contrary even so notwithstanding for all that in contrast alternatively at the same time otherwise instead nonetheless conversely | but yet and yet still otherwise or though but another ratherhowever still nevertheless |
| **Purpose** | to do so so thatto this end  | with this object for this purpose for that reason |
| **Result** | so and so thenhence therefore accordingly  | as a result in consequenceconsequently thus thereupon |
| **Example** | that is specifically in particular for one thing | for example for instance an instance of this this can be seen in |
| **Summary and Emphasis** | in fact indeed clearly of course remarkably assuredly definitely without doubt on the whole certainly | in sum generally after all in general naturally in brief in short on the whole in other words to be sure |

**Why Transitions?**

Transitions are essential in creating logical connections between the sentences, paragraphs and sections of your paper. They indicate the relationship between ideas, and these relationships tell your reader how to process the information you present. Transitions are especially important when you introduce new information. COWS Director Lydia McDermott argues that all writers must keep a “Known-New Contract” with their readers, in which the writer has a responsibility to show how all new information connects to known information. Transitions facilitate the “Known-New Contract” by demonstrating how new information relates to known information.

**The Relationship between Organization and Transitions**

Organization is the order in which you choose to present your information. Transitions are the relationships you construct between those pieces of information. Transitions can never substitute for good organization, but they can help make the logic of that organization transparent to your reader.

**Types of Transitions**

* *Transitions between sections*: Some pieces may need transition paragraphs that summarize the previous section, describe how it relates to what follows, and offer a preliminary outline (or “roadmap”) of what the next section covers. This technique of full paragraph transitions is primarily for longer works, like thesis projects.
* *Transitions between paragraphs*: If you’ve done a good job organizing your paragraphs, a transition should highlight a relationship that is already implicit. A transition between paragraphs can be a word, a phrase, or a full sentence. Transitions can be at the end of the first paragraph, the beginning of the second, or in both places.
* *Transitions within paragraphs*: Within paragraphs, transitions tend to be single words or short phrases. They act as cues to help the reader anticipate what she will read before she reads it.

**Transition Language**

Effective transitions often depend on your ability to choose the correct word or phrase to denote the exact type of relationship you would like to express. The table to the right has some key words to get you started.