

# TRANSITIONS AND CONNECTIVE EXPRESSIONS

Online: [www.ufv.ca/writing\\_centre](http://www.ufv.ca/writing_centre)

Transitional expressions are like signposts; they guide your reader as you move from one topic to another. They are particularly valuable in showing that you are beginning a new division or subdivision and for showing relationships between your points. Transitions signal that one part of the discussion has ended, and they give your reader hints about how the next phase of thought is connected. Transitions often occur, then, in topic sentences at the beginning of paragraphs, but they also occur *within* paragraphs to show relationship between points. Without transitions and connective expressions, readers are left to try to figure out the relationships between your points—instead, you want to use transitions and connective expressions to guide readers throughout your text.

Grammatically, transitions are followed by a comma.

*On the other hand*, a trip to Moose Jaw can be very educational. (used to show contrast)

*Furthermore*, I have to write a proposal. (used to show addition)

*Finally*, the most important consideration is the quality of food. (used to show time, conclusion)

Transitional words and phrases can also help achieve sentence variety by placing them at the beginning of the sentence or after the subject. When they are after the subject, commas surround them.

Moose Jaw, *on the other hand*, is a great place for an educational vacation.

I have to write a proposal, *furthermore*.

The most important consideration, *finally*, is the quality of food.

On the back side of this handout are some examples of transitions and connective expressions and their possible uses. It is important to note these words and phrases can be used in a number of ways for many different purposes.

**Addition**

and  
too  
furthermore  
in addition  
further  
also  
another

**Further Explanation**

in other words  
thus  
that is  
that is to say  
likewise  
moreover

**Causation**

as a result  
consequently  
subsequently  
therefore  
hence  
so  
in order to  
because

**Compare/contrast**

but  
however  
yet  
whereas  
on the contrary  
on the other hand  
rather  
although  
though  
as  
as if  
as though  
in spite of  
otherwise  
similarly  
or  
nor  
neither  
either  
in comparison

**Emphasis/repetition**

for instance  
for example  
in particular  
certainly  
indeed  
undoubtedly  
of course  
surely  
obviously

**Relationship**

accordingly  
equally important  
in fact  
more specifically  
more interesting  
inasmuch as  
hence  
for this reason  
notwithstanding  
inevitably  
in order to  
for this purpose  
in this way  
since  
if  
admittedly  
notwithstanding  
nevertheless

**Conclusion**

as I have said  
as stated  
to conclude  
in conclusion  
last  
finally  
to sum up

**Time**

soon/later  
at present  
historically  
until  
occasionally  
henceforward  
at length

**Place**

from  
where  
beyond  
over  
in the middle  
around  
here/there

***The Writing Centre at the University of the Fraser Valley***

- *promotes and researches writing as a foundational activity connected to critical thinking and learning in a post-secondary setting,*
- *provides a confidential service offering writing instruction to students who wish to become effective writers in their fields of study, and*
- *engages in dialogue with UFV's community of learners about the teaching of writing in discipline areas.*

