**Transitions**

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| **Addition** | further  in addition  besides  again equally important | first, second  finally, lastly  furthermore  moreover  additionally |
| **Comparison** | just as . . . so too does a similar x  another x like  similarly | 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  rather  however  still  nevertheless |
| **Purpose** | to do so  so that  to this end | with this object  for this purpose  for that reason |
| **Result** | so  and so  then  hence  therefore  accordingly | as a result  in consequence consequently  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.