



Transitions

Transitions make clear the way that ideas are connected in an essay. They are used to show how one idea relates to the next. Once you have written your entire essay, go back and review your organization. Look to the end of each paragraph and the beginning of the next. How can you link the two ideas together?

Link your paragraph topics in the last sentence of a paragraph and the first sentence of the next paragraph.

Choppy: **Paragraph A:** ...If the Georgia Lottery contributes significantly to public education, Georgia students will have better educational opportunities, which can lead to a better way of life for them.
Paragraph B: The biggest complaint people have about living in Atlanta is the congested traffic.

Revised: **Paragraph A:** ...If the Georgia Lottery contributes significantly to public education, Georgia students will have better educational opportunities, which can lead to more diverse job opportunities. *Many students' careers will lead them to Atlanta, however, where they will face a new challenge: transportation.*
Paragraph B: The biggest complaint people have about living in Atlanta is the congested traffic; *therefore, in addition to public education, profits from the Georgia Lottery should also be spent improving Georgia's highways.*

Refer to a key word or phrase that is important to your thesis and that you have returned to throughout your essay. It often makes sense to use the same trigger word or phrase in the last sentence of a preceding paragraph and the first sentence of a new paragraph.

Paragraph A: ...In fact, human offspring remain *dependent on their parents* longer than the young of any other species.

Paragraph B: Children are *dependent on their parents* or other adults, not only for their physical survival, but also for their initiation into the uniquely human knowledge that is collectively called culture...

Common transitional expressions can also help show the relationship between ideas or paragraphs.

To show addition: also, besides, furthermore, moreover, next, too

To give examples: for example, for instance, to illustrate, in fact, specifically

To compare: also, in the same manner, similarly, likewise

To contrast: but, however, on the other hand, nevertheless, still, even though, although, yet

To indicate logical relationship: if, so, therefore, consequently, thus, as a result, for this reason, because, since