Transitional Devices

Transitions are devices that reveal relationships between your sentences, paragraphs, and ideas. They are intrinsic to the order of your paper, and they help to achieve unity by relating ideas in a paper to your thesis.

They should not appear excessively or appear to be tacked on at random, but they should always indicate the precise connection between one idea, sentence, or paragraph.

Here are some examples of the kinds of relationships you might wish to show and the words that will help you.

CONSEQUENCE: Therefore, then, thus, accordingly, as a result, consequently,

SIMILARITY: similarly, likewise

COMPARISON: in comparison, by comparison, compared to

CONTRAST: however, but, yet, nevertheless, on the one hand, on the other hand, on the contrary, in contrast, whereas, except, conversely, meanwhile, although, however, still, nonetheless, while

SUPPLEMENTATION: in addition, further, furthermore, also, moreover, again, beside, next, and, equally important, what’s more

EXAMPLE: for instance, for example, in this case, in this situation, to demonstrate, to illustrate, as an illustration

CONCESSION: granted, although, though, while, of course

INSISTENCE: anyway, indeed, in fact, obviously

SEQUENCE: first, second, third, finally, afterward, subsequently, consequently, hence, next, following

RESTATEMENT: that is, in other words, in short

SUMMARY: in conclusion, to conclude, to summarize, all these, altogether, in sum, in summary, on the whole, in brief, therefore, accordingly, as a result, thus

TIME: afterward, later, earlier, formerly, subsequently, at the same time, simultaneously, so far, until now, this time

PURPOSE: so that

RESTRITION: provided that