

Seamless Transitions

The point of transitions is to help your writing flow smoothly from one idea to the next.

Seamless Transitions

- Transition words and phrases can effectively link ideas in your writing.
- However, too often, student writers haphazardly plug in transitional phrases from a list at the beginning of paragraphs.
- These often sound unnecessary and/or unnaturally awkward and can actually interrupt the flow more than help it.

Not-So-Seamless Transitions

- Example: "In contrary to most cities, Seattle not only has three sports teams including..., but an extravagant aquarium..."
- Example: "The extended-day schedule would not work here. To illustrate, students just don't want it here."

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- Even though ideas and reasons in each body paragraph should be distinct, transitions should help readers understand how paragraphs
 - relate, refer and connect to one another,
 - and how they work together to build to a larger point.

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- To effectively, and seamlessly, transition from one paragraph to the next, try repeating a word or short phrase from the previous paragraph early in the next paragraph.

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- For example, end one paragraph like this:

"...Secondly, when students are disruptive in class, the teacher will become very agitated; therefore, unable to teach. Now isn't it odd that being disruptive and noisy at lunch could lead to all of this mess? You **MUST** assign seating arrangements so everybody at our school can be **stress-free**."

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- Start the next paragraph like this:

"**Stress** can result in many happenings: falling behind in school work, acne, and even dropping out of school. You may think **stress** does not have anything to do with lunchtime, but it does—big time. It is where cliques are made, gangs are joined, and fights are not a rarity but a common occurrence."

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- Example #2, end of one paragraph:

"I remember in second grade, having assigned seats, and it was chaotic! Food was thrown, fights started, and sheer pandemonium was evident. Assigned seats were clearly not **effective**, and actually seemed to make student behavior worse."

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- Ex. #2, start of the following paragraph:

"I believe there are more **effective** ways to get the message across that the current behavior is unacceptable than to tether kids to chairs for the half hour they eat lunch."

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- Example #3, end of one paragraph:

"In fact, riding horses can even be your daily mode of transportation. Need something from the store? Outside **McClintock's Mercantile** there's a hitching post with a watering trough for your trusty steed."

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- Example #3, start of the next paragraph:

"**McClintock's Mercantile** is reason enough to live in Luckenbach. This fabulous emporium is like an urban mall, while still having the charm of an old-fashioned general store, which is really what it is."

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Your turn:

- Read the essay on the handout.
- Identify the main idea of each body paragraph.
- Add sentences to connect all five paragraphs seamlessly.
- Highlight your ideas that help connect or relate the paragraphs.