

LUC WRITING CENTER – “TRANSITIONS”

Transitions are words that connect the end of one paragraph (and its “point” and meaning) with the beginning of the next paragraph (and its “point” and meaning). Without using transitions, the beginning words of paragraphs often become *logically disconnected* and *repetitive*: “The,” “He,” “She,” “What,” “How,” etc. This can be a sign that your paper is not well thought through or stylistically finished. Neglecting to use transitions can also make it difficult for the reader to follow your argument.

Therefore, if the conclusion sentence of your first body paragraph is “By showing respect to the Baptist ministers and maintaining a moderate tone, King Jr. can reason with them logically instead of antagonizing the recipients of his letter” then the first sentence of your next paragraph *can use a transition to carry that point through*: “Nevertheless, King Jr. delivers a sharp rebuke to his fellow Christian ministers for failing to sympathize with and support African Americans in their very human struggle for racial equality.”

Examples of Transitions:

Alternative: or, nor, and, and then, moreover, besides

Addition: further, furthermore, likewise, also, too, again, in addition, even more important, next, first, second, third, in the first place, in the second place, finally, last

Comparison similarly, likewise in like manner

Contrast: but, yet, or, and yet, however, still, nevertheless, on the other hand, on the contrary, conversely, even so, notwithstanding, in contrast, at the same time, although this may be true, otherwise, nonetheless

Place: here, beyond, nearby, opposite to, adjacent to, on the opposite side

Purpose: to this end, for this purpose, with this object, in order to

Result or cause: so, for therefore, accordingly, consequently, thus, thereupon, as a result, then, because, hence

Summary: to sum up, in brief, on the whole, in sum, in short, in any event

Repetition: as I have said, in other words, that is, to be sure, as has been noted

Exemplification: for example, for instance, to show, to see, to understand, in the case of

Intensification: in fact, indeed, to tell the truth

Time: meanwhile, at length, soon after a few days, in the meantime, afterward, later, now, then, in the past, while

Source of examples:

Glenn, Cheryl, et al. *The Writer's Harbrace Handbook*. Thomson Wadsworth, 2005.