

# Essay Sentence Starters and Transitions

## **Introduction:**

### Claim/Thesis Sentence Starters:

- I believe...
- I will argue...
- The only truth is that...
- My claim is...

### Reasons Sentence Starters:

- One reason I believe my claim is true is...
- Another reason I believe my claim is true is...
- Lastly, my claim is true because...

## **Body Paragraph:**

### Topic Sentence Sentence Starters

- First/Second/Third, my claim is correct because...
- One reason/another reason my claim is true is...
- To begin, ...
- First of all, ...

### Giving Evidence Sentence Starters:

- The text states, "...
- My reason is correct because the text states, "...
- One piece of evidence to prove my reason is, "...

### Explaining Evidence Sentence Starters:

- This means...
- In other words...
- This is important because...
- This relates to my reason because...
- This relates to my claim because...

## **Conclusion Paragraphs**

### Topic Sentence Sentence Starters:

- To restate my claim, ...
- In conclusion, ...

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## **Transition Words and Phrases**

This structured list of commonly used English *transition words* — approximately 200, can be considered as quasi complete. It can be used (by students and teachers alike) to find the right

expression. English transition words are essential, since they not only connect ideas, but also can introduce a certain shift, contrast or opposition, emphasis or agreement, purpose, result or conclusion, etc. in the line of argument. The transition words and phrases have been assigned only once to somewhat artificial categories, although some words belong to more than one category.

There is some overlapping with preposition and postposition, but for the purpose of clarity and completeness of this concise guide, I did not differentiate.

### **Agreement / Addition / Similarity**

The transition words like ***also, in addition, and, likewise, add information, reinforce ideas***, and ***express agreement*** with preceding material.

**in the first place**

**not only ... but also**

**as a matter of fact**

**in like manner**

**in addition**

**coupled with**

**in the same fashion / way**

**first, second, third**

**in the light of**

**not to mention**

**to say nothing of**

**equally important**

**by the same token**

**again**

**to**

**and**

**also**

**then**

**equally**

**identically**

**uniquely**  
**like**  
**as**  
**too**  
**moreover**  
**as well as**  
**together with**  
**of course**  
**likewise**  
**comparatively**  
**correspondingly**  
**similarly**  
**furthermore**  
**additionally**

### **Opposition / Limitation / Contradiction**

Transition phrases like *but*, *rather* and *or*, express that there is evidence to the **contrary** or point out **alternatives**, and thus introduce a change the line of reasoning (**contrast**).

**although this may be true**  
**in contrast**  
**different from**  
**of course ..., but**  
**on the other hand**  
**on the contrary**  
**at the same time**  
**in spite of**  
**even so / though**

**be that as it may**  
**then again**  
**above all**  
**in reality**  
**after all**  
**but**  
**(and) still**  
**unlike**  
**or**  
**(and) yet**  
**while**  
**albeit**  
**besides**  
**as much as**  
**even though**  
**although**  
**instead**  
**whereas**  
**despite**  
**conversely**  
**otherwise**  
**however**  
**rather**  
**nevertheless**  
**nonetheless**  
**regardless**  
**notwithstanding**

**Cause / Condition / Purpose**

These transitional phrases present specific **conditions** or **intentions**.

**in the event that**

**granted (that)**

**as / so long as**

**on (the) condition (that)**

**for the purpose of**

**with this intention**

**with this in mind**

**in the hope that**

**to the end that**

**for fear that**

**in order to**

**seeing / being that**

**in view of**

**If**

**... then**

**unless**

**when**

**whenever**

**while**

**because of**

**as**

**since**

**while**

**lest**

**in case**

**provided that**

**given that**

**only / even if**

**so that**

**so as to**

**owing to**

**inasmuch as**

**due to**

### **Examples / Support / Emphasis**

These transitional devices (like *especially*) are used to introduce examples as **support**, to indicate **importance** or as an **illustration** so that an idea is cued to the reader.

**in other words**

**to put it differently**

**for one thing**

**as an illustration**

**in this case**

**for this reason**

**to put it another way**

**that is to say**

**with attention to**

**by all means**

**important to realize**

**another key point**

**first thing to remember**

**most compelling evidence**

**must be remembered**

**point often overlooked**

**to point out**

**on the positive side**

**on the negative side**

**with this in mind**

**notably**

**including**

**like**

**to be sure**

**namely**

**chiefly**

**truly**

**indeed**

**certainly**

**surely**

**markedly**

**such as**

**especially**

**explicitly**

**specifically**

**expressly**

**surprisingly**

**frequently**

**significantly**

**particularly**

**in fact**

**in general**

**in particular**

**in detail**

**for example**

**for instance**  
**to demonstrate**  
**to emphasize**  
**to repeat**  
**to clarify**  
**to explain**  
**to enumerate**

### **Effect / Consequence / Result**

Some of these transition words (*thus, then, accordingly, consequently, therefore, henceforth*) are time words that are used to show that *after* a particular time there was a **consequence** or an **effect**.

Note that *for* and *because* are placed before the cause/reason. The other devices are placed before the consequences or effects.

**as a result**  
**under those circumstances**  
**in that case**  
**for this reason**  
**in effect**  
**for**  
**thus**  
**because the**  
**then**  
**hence**  
**consequently**  
**therefore**  
**thereupon**  
**forthwith**



**accordingly**  
**henceforth**

### **Conclusion / Summary / Restatement**

These transition words and phrases **conclude**, **summarize** and / or **restate** ideas, or indicate a final **general statement**. Also some words (like **therefore**) from the **Effect / Consequence** category can be used to summarize.

**as can be seen**  
**generally speaking**  
**in the final analysis**  
**all things considered**  
**as shown above**  
**in the long run**  
**given these points**  
**as has been noted**  
**in a word**  
**for the most part**  
**after all**  
**in fact**  
**in summary**  
**in conclusion**  
**in short**  
**in brief**  
**in essence**  
**to summarize**  
**on balance**  
**altogether**  
**overall**

**ordinarily**  
**usually**  
**by and large**  
**to sum up**  
**on the whole**  
**in any event**  
**in either case**  
**all in all**

**Obviously**  
**Ultimately**  
**Definitely**

### **Time / Chronology / Sequence**

These transitional words (like *finally*) have the function of limiting, restricting, and defining **time**. They can be used either alone or as part of *adverbial expressions*.

**at the present time**  
**from time to time**  
**sooner or later**  
**at the same time**  
**up to the present time**  
**to begin with**  
**in due time**  
**as soon as**  
**as long as**  
**in the meantime**  
**in a moment**  
**without delay**

**in the first place**  
**all of a sudden**  
**at this instant**  
**first, second**

**immediately**  
**quickly**  
**finally**  
**after**  
**later**  
**last**  
**until**  
**till**  
**since**  
**then**  
**before**  
**hence**  
**since**  
**when**  
**once**  
**about**  
**next**  
**now**

**formerly**  
**suddenly**  
**shortly**  
**henceforth**  
**whenever**  
**eventually**

**meanwhile**  
**further**  
**during**  
**in time**  
**prior to**  
**forthwith**  
**straightaway**

**by the time**  
**whenever**

**until now**  
**now that**

**instantly**  
**presently**  
**occasionally**

Many transition words in the time category (*consequently; first, second, third; further; hence; henceforth; since; then, when; and whenever*) have other uses.

Except for the numbers (*first, second, third*) and *further* they add a meaning of **time** in expressing conditions, qualifications, or reasons. The numbers are also used to **add information** or **list examples**. *Further* is also used to indicate added space as well as added time.

### **Space / Location / Place**

These transition words are often used as part of *adverbial expressions* and have the function to restrict, limit or qualify **space**. Quite a few of these are

also found in the **Time** category and can be used to describe spatial order or spatial reference.

**in the middle**

**to the left/right**

**in front of**

**on this side**

**in the distance**

**here and there**

**in the foreground**

**in the background**

**in the center of**

**adjacent to**

**opposite to**

**here**

**there**

**next**

**where**

**from**

**over**

**near**

**above**

**below**

**down**

**up**

**under**

**further**

**beyond**

**nearby**

**wherever**

**around**

**between**

**before**

**alongside**

**amid**

**among**

**beneath**

**beside**

**behind**

**across**