

## TRANSITIONS: INTEGRATING THE PIECES

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Readers understand the thinking behind an essay by following the language that links ideas in a logical way. It is precise **transition words/phrases** that effectively lead a reader through an argument. Words and phrases like:

however	because	purpose is	in spite of
either/or	therefore	finally	unfortunately
nevertheless	consequently	opinions include	fortunately
although	so that	topic is	just as
both	in order to	belief	in contrast to
as well as	the cause is	idea	similarly
not only	results are	in preference to	hereby
but also	analysis shows	hypotheses	while
as a result	steps taken	theory	ironically
since	effects are	one might assume	amazingly
this led to	similar viewpoint	on the other hand	disturbingly
if ...then	alternative	before	first, second, etc.
whereby	viewpoint	after	next

A writer wants a reader to follow his train of thought exactly. Transition words and phrases are like the nubs and slots on a puzzle piece. The piece (or idea) needs to fit perfectly into the one next to it in order for the whole puzzle to work. Learning sentence (idea) combining is one way students grasp how to incorporate transition language effectively.