

Using Transitional Words and Phrases

Using transitional devices will help your essay flow and add to the overall organization of your piece.

Transitions & Justifiers:

- Can begin a sentence or join 2 sentences with a semi-colon (;)
- Are followed by a comma
- Can be the first words in a new paragraph
- Must make sense in the sentence and paragraph
- Justifier transitions are used as the first word in the last sentence in your paragraph. They “justify” your point.

Why should I use transitional words and justifier sentences?

- Using a transitional word or phrase will add **fluency** to your writing.
- A justifier sentence helps you “complete” your body paragraphs, making them feel finished.
- A justifier sentence reiterates your main focus for the paragraph, keeping you on topic.

How do I make my main idea and justifier sentence work together?

- The justifier sentence should re-state the main focus (main idea) of the body paragraph.
- Use different words than the main idea sentence of the paragraph.
- If it is a persuasive essay, make the statement persuasive.

Here is an example body paragraph. Notice the difference between the **main idea statement** and **justifier sentence**. Also note how the transitional words add fluency to the paragraph.

Equally important, I am not stressed out by school during the summer. Time Magazine once released a poll that said eighty five percent of students get paranoid by school. Whether it is homework or an essential project, students always have something to freak out about. During the summer, though, there is no homework or projects; therefore, I just relax and sleep in. With nothing to be neurotic about, the summer allows me to have time to unwind after a hectic school year. Obviously, summer is a great way to build up your mental stability for the next school year.



Great Transitional Words and Phrases

**Initially,
Additionally,
Also,
Equally important,
All in all,**

**Can't Miss
Transitions**

**Indeed,
Clearly,
Of course,
Obviously,
Thus,**

**Can't Miss
Justifiers**

Moving into Body: *(to introduce a new topic)*
To begin, First of all,
To start, Initially,

Addition of Information: *(to add to a topic or paragraph)*
Also, Next,
Again, Finally,
Besides, Further,
Moreover,
In addition,
Furthermore,
Equally important,

Showing Comparison: *(to show how topics or paragraphs are similar)*
Equally, Likewise,
Similarly, While,
After all,
In the same way,
By comparison,

Showing Contrast: *(to show how topics or paragraphs are different)*
Despite,
Whereas,
However,
In spite of,
In contrast,
As opposed,
On the contrary,
On the other hand,

Emphasis (Great Justifiers): *(to add emphasis to the topic or idea and help **prove** a point)*
Definitely, Extremely,
Indeed, Absolutely,
In reality, Positively,
Certainly, Undeniably,
Again, Emphatically,
Without a doubt,
Unquestionably,

Proving (Great Justifiers): *(to prove a point)*
Since, Obviously,
Evidently, Furthermore,
Besides, Indeed,
In fact, In any case,

Clarification: *(to provide an example)*
Especially,
In other words,
For example, For instance,
In particular, Specifically,
To clarify,

Showing Time: *(to show time relation between topics)*
Soon,
Immediately,
Finally,
Then,
Later, Next,
Previously, Formerly,
In the beginning,

Showing Exception: *(to show that not everything is the same in all cases)*
Yet, Still,
However, Despite,
In spite of, Of course,
Sometimes,
Nevertheless,
Once in a while,

Conclusion or Summary: *(to summarize an entire concept, not just a single thought or idea)*
Overall,
All in all,
To sum up,
In brief,
Hence,
Accordingly,
On the whole,
Thus,
As a result,
In summary,
To conclude,
In a nut shell,
As shown,

Tip:
*Highlight
your favorite
transitions to
use in your
essays.*



Using Transitional Words and Phrases

Now it's your turn! Practice using transitions and writing justifier sentences. For each body paragraph of the following essay, **fill in an appropriate transition**. Then, **write a justifier sentence** for each of body paragraphs. Make sure you:

- € Use a transition that makes sense in the paragraph.
- € Use the appropriate punctuation.
- € Begin the justifier sentence with a justifier transition.
- € Re-state the main focus (main idea) of the body paragraph in the justifier sentence.
- € Use different words than the main idea sentence of the paragraph in the justifier sentence.
- € Make the statement persuasive, if it is a persuasive essay.

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing," Edmund Burke stated. This is very true in life. If good people sit back and do not do what is right, then bad will triumph. It can be something as simple as not voting in an election or trying to get out of jury duty. We all need to be good citizens if we want our country to be strong. Being a good citizen means demonstrating Obedience for laws, showing respect, and exhibiting cooperation within one's community.

being a good citizen means obeying laws. Although people may not always agree with all laws, it is always important to follow the rules. American writer and historian, Will Durant once said, "Civilization begins with order, grows with liberty, and dies with chaos." In other words, our society is built upon the laws we must follow.

a good citizen is always respectful. Showing respect for your community includes caring about people and the environment. Oddly enough, 78% of citizens forget that our environment also deserves respect. It is not enough to simply value our neighbors, but we also need to respect our environment in order to benefit from all the world has to offer us.

cooperation within one's community is essential. Not too long ago, a friend accidentally locked her keys in her car. As she sat in the parking lot, crying and obviously upset, waiting for her mom to bring the extra set of keys, she counted 16 people walk right by her. Unbelievably, not one person asked her what was wrong or if they could help her out. This situation caused her to examine the city she lived in and from this experience, she already know she does not want her children to grow up in a similar city.

it is imperative to practice good citizenship because it demonstrates obedience for laws. Also, it displays respect and shows cooperation within one's community. It is very tempting not to be an active member of a community, but being a part of a free county requires us to participate. Our country provides us with so many opportunities that we need to do our part. Edmund Burke made a great observation because sometimes not doing good is just as harmful as doing bad.



