

Using Transitional Words in an Argumentative Essay

The purpose of the argumentative mode, sometimes called the persuasive mode, is to change the way a reader thinks or behaves. A writer achieves this purpose by convincing a reader of the truth and logic in a particular argument he or she is presenting in the essay. In order to be convincing, a writer should address more than one side of the argument in the essay. The writer will agree with one side, and will refute, or use information to argue against, another side.

In an argumentative essay, a reader might come across some of the following uses of transitional words and phrases.

- On the other hand
- According to (Author, Source), " . . . " (Citation).
- In fact
- Furthermore
- Although
- Most convincingly

The writer must remember to order his or her details appropriately and help the reader follow the order by including transitional words and phrases. These words and phrases will appear not only at the beginning of each new paragraph, but also within the paragraph, between ideas and before source information

Illustration:

Thus, for example, for instance, namely, to illustrate, in other words, in particular, specifically, such as.

Contrast:

On the contrary, contrarily, notwithstanding, but, however, nevertheless, in spite of, in contrast, yet, on one hand, on the other hand, rather, or, nor, conversely, at the same time, while this may be true.

Addition:

And, in addition to, furthermore, moreover, besides, than, too, also, both-and, another, equally important, first, second, etc., again, further, last, finally, not only-but also, as well as, in the second place, next, likewise, similarly, in fact, as a result, consequently, in the same way, for example, for instance, however, thus, therefore, otherwise.

Examples:

For example, for instance, to illustrate, thus, in other words, as an illustration, in particular.

Consequence or Result:

So that, with the result that, thus, consequently, hence, accordingly, for this reason, therefore, so, because, since, due to, as a result, in other words, then.

Summary:

Therefore, finally, consequently, thus, in short, in conclusion, in brief, as a result, accordingly.

Suggestion:

For this purpose, to this end, with this in mind, with this purpose in mind, therefore