**TRANSITIONS**

Definitions:

The word “transition” literally means movement from one place to another. In writing, transition means moving from one sentence to another or one paragraph to another without abrupt shifts in logic or subject. Without transitions an essay will dissolve into a simple list of loosely connected ideas/statements.

In summary, transitions are words and phrases that are used as a **bridge** to carry your reader from one sentence or paragraph to the next.

Transitional Elements:

Transitional elements prepare the reader for each new idea and relate each new statement to the last. Below is a list of transitional elements, arranged according to their function in the sentence.

Time:

after, afterwards, at last, before, currently, during, earlier, immediately, later, meanwhile, now, recently, simultaneously, subsequently, then, next

Sequence:

first, second, third … , next, finally, then

Similarity:

also, in the same way, just as … so to, likewise, similarly

Addition:

additionally, again, also, as well, besides, equally important, further, furthermore, in addition, moreover, then, too

Exception/Contrast:

but, however, in spite of, on the one hand … on the other hand, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding, in contrast, on the contrary, still, yet, despite, even though

Provide an example:

for example, for instance, namely, specifically, to illustrate

Emphasize a point:

even, indeed, in fact, of course, truly

Indicate place:

above, adjacent, below, beyond, here, in front, in back, nearby, there

Cause and Effect:

accordingly, consequently, hence, so, therefore, thus

Summary/Conclusion:

in summary, to sum up, in conclusion, finally, in a word, in brief, in the end, on the whole, thus

General to Specific:

in fact, especially, for instance, for example

Transition Techniques:

In addition to using words or phrases, certain techniques establish continuity between sentences or paragraphs.

* Repeating words, ideas, and/or key phrases keeps your essay connected.
* Answering a question or completing an idea that has been left incomplete also gives and essay a smooth flow.
* Careful use of pronouns like “this,” “these,” “them,” can carry ideas from one sentence to another. Be careful when you use this technique that you have introduced the idea to the reader before you start referring to it as “this,” “these,” etc. For example: *I ran back to my karate class. I couldn’t believe it, I had lost them.* The reader has no idea what “them” refers to.
* Transitions between paragraphs are often entire sentences rather than just a word.