

## RTW Plus: TRANSITIONS

Transitions are words or phrases that connect one idea to another in your writing. They help a reader move from one big idea to the next within a paragraph, or from one section to the next in a longer essay. They make your writing smoother, more coherent, and easier for your reader to follow.

When you were first introduced to the RTW format of writing, you were asked to place a basic transition word at the beginning of each claim: *first, second, third*. This alerted your reader to each of the three big ideas of your paragraph.

It is time to vary the transition words that you use within your RTW paragraphs.

For your first claim, you can use transition words like:

To begin,  
First of all,  
To start,  
At the onset,  
Generally,  
In fact,  
Undoubtedly,

If the next claim builds on the one that came before it, you can show this relationship by using words like:

In addition,  
Additionally,  
Furthermore,  
Next,  
Moreover,  
Similarly,  
Likewise,  
In the same manner,

If the next claim is substantially different from the one you just finished (as in a compare/contrast paragraph), you may want to show this shift in direction by transition words like:

However,  
On the other hand,  
In contrast,  
Even though,  
On the contrary,  
In opposition,  
Although,

Finally, you can use transition words or phrases to indicate when you are wrapping up or concluding your paragraph or essay:

To conclude,  
In conclusion,  
To summarize,  
In summary,  
Finally,

Even when you don't use RTW, these transition words help connect your ideas. If your work reads choppy, these words will help connect ideas and/or they will help make clear when you need to refine your ideas.