

TRANSITIONAL PHRASES

The use of transitional phrases helps clarify the meaning of ideas and guides the reader from point to point throughout the essay. Additionally transitions provide the appearance of organization.

To clarify a sequence of events: first, second, third, next, finally, last

To show a similar relationship: similarly, in like manner, likewise

To point out a dissimilarity: in opposition to, in contrast to, on the other hand

To emphasize a point: indeed, in fact, surely, certainly

To show or point out a result: consequently, as a result, therefore, hence

To summarize a position: in summation, finally, in conclusion, in short

To illustrate a point: for example, by way of illustration, for instance

To contrast a position: on the other hand, however, but, yet, despite, although

To record time: now, gradually, later, eventually, immediately, at once, at this point, next, afterward, soon, then

Note how the transitional phrases affect the following body paragraphs:

Without transitions:

Socially, the New England and Chesapeake regions were very dissimilar. New England farmers settled in small towns and villages where they quickly married and raised many children. The Chesapeake population was mostly young, male indentured servants who did not start families. The rugged lifestyle of the Chesapeake meant a shorter life expectancy. New Englanders often lived full, long lives which allowed them to develop more complex social institutions. The cash-crop economy of the Chesapeake eventually became dependent on a slave labor force. The institution of slavery never fully took root in New England. New England society was much more family-based while the Chesapeake reflected the economic structure of the region.

With transitions:

Socially, the New England and Chesapeake regions were very dissimilar. For instance, New England farmers settled in small towns and villages where they quickly married and raised many children. On the other hand, in the Chesapeake, the population was mostly young, male indentured servants who did not start families. Likewise, the rugged lifestyle of the Chesapeake meant a shorter life expectancy. On the contrary, New Englanders often lived full, long lives which allowed them to develop more complex social institutions. Finally, the cash-crop economy of the Chesapeake eventually became dependent on a slave labor force. Despite the fact that slavery was also legal in New England, this institution never fully took root there. In short, New England society was much more family-based while the Chesapeake reflected the economic structure of the region.