










Transitional Words

Relationships	Transitional Words
Time 	first, next, suddenly, when, after, before, soon, at the same time, as soon as, the following, finally, as, then, meanwhile, afterward, immediately, later
Place 	beside, here, near, there, above, below, on the left, on top of, around, opposite, next to
Importance 	first, second, third, primarily, predominantly, largely, above all, chiefly, mainly, principally, for the most part, better, best, last, more important, most important, most of all, least, last but not least
Cause/ Effect 	therefore, for that reason, namely, because, due to, thus, as a result, consequently, so, since, for, as a result, then
Comparison 	similarly, like, clearly, same as, in the same way, as, also, obviously, apparently, correspondingly, equally
Contrast 	but, however, yet, although, clearly, even though, in contrast, different from, unlike, on the other hand, nevertheless, but, conversely, in spite of, though, still
Examples storm  tornado 	that is, for this reason, such as, for example, like, in other words, along with, as follows, for instance, as, namely, clearly, evidently, undoubtedly, without a doubt, plainly, unmistakably
Adding Information 	again, also, additionally, in addition, furthermore, another, and, besides, for example, for instance, moreover, next, likewise, finally, as well, along with, equally important, in other words

Writing Effective Paragraphs

Use the following general guidelines whenever you write paragraphs.

Prewriting selecting a Topic and Details

- Select a specific topic.
- Collect facts, examples, and details about your topic.
- Write a topic sentence that states what your paragraph is going to be about. (See page 525 for help.)
- Decide on the best way to arrange your details.

Writing creating the First Draft

- Start your paragraph with the topic sentence.
- Write sentences in the body that support your topic. Use the details you collected as a guide.
- Connect your ideas and sentences with transitions.
- End with a sentence that restates your topic, leaves the reader with a final thought, or (in an essay) leads into the next paragraph.

Revising improving Your Writing

- Add information if you need to say more about your topic.
- Move sentences that aren't in the correct order.
- Delete sentences that do not support the topic.
- Rewrite any sentences that are not clear.

Editing checking for Conventions

- Check the revised version of your writing for capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and spelling errors.
 - Then write a neat final copy and proofread it.
- tip** When you write a paragraph, remember that readers want . . .
- original ideas. (*They want to learn something new and interesting.*)
 - personality. (*They want to hear the writer's voice.*)

A Closer Look at the Parts

The Topic Sentence

The topic sentence tells the reader what a paragraph is going to be about. A good topic sentence (1) names the topic and (2) states a specific detail or a feeling about it. Here is a simple formula for writing a topic sentence.

the topic
outdoor enthusiasts

+

a specific detail
are looking for more adventure in their sports

a good topic sentence
Many outdoor enthusiasts are looking for more adventure in their sports.

The topic sentence is usually the first sentence in a paragraph, although sometimes it comes later. It guides the direction of the sentences in the rest of the paragraph.

Many outdoor enthusiasts are looking for more adventure in their sports.

The Body

The sentences in the body of the paragraph include the details needed to understand the topic.

- Use specific details to make your paragraph interesting. The specific details below are shown in red.
People seek adventure by water, too. They navigate the same rivers and shoot the same rapids that early Native Americans, fur traders, and explorers did.
- Organize your sentences in the best possible order. Five common ways to organize sentences are chronological (time) order, order of location, order of importance, comparison, and logical order. (See page 551.)

The Closing Sentence

The closing sentence comes after all the details in the body. It will often restate the topic, give the reader something to think about, or provide a transition into a following paragraph.

Today, an adventure sport is out there for just about anyone, and more sports are being invented all the time.

How can I collect details for my writing?

Problem-Solution Web
Use to map out problem-solution essays.

Cause-Effect Organizer
Use to collect and organize details for cause-effect essays.

Subject:	Effects
•	•
•	•
•	•

Action-Sensory Chart
Use to collect details for descriptive and narrative essays or for stories.

Topic:	Action Details	Sensory Details
Beginning		
Middle		
Ending		

Venn Diagram
Use to collect details to compare and contrast two subjects.

Sensory Chart
Use to collect details for descriptive essays and observation reports.

Subject:	Sights	Smells	Tastes	Feelings

Time Line (Step-by-Step)
Use to collect details for personal narratives and how-to essays.

Subject:	(Chronological Order)
1	
2	
3	
4	

5 Ws Chart
Use to collect the Who? What? Where? When? Why? details for personal narratives and news stories.

Subject:	Who?	What?	Where?	When?	Why?