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Add information that agrees with your argument

During an argument, sometimes you need to provide more information in order to account for other relevant issues that agree with your argument. This will make your argument more expansive.

For example:

- *Many students struggle to understand the rules for academic citation. **Moreover, the common use of several citation styles can complicate the issue.***
- *In considering which citation guidelines to use, it is best to see which format is most commonly used in your field. **Furthermore, some citation styles, such as MLA, offer different formats for different types of writing.***

Insert the following transitional words in the beginning or middle of the sentence, they will mediate between two sets of agreeing information:

- besides
- equally important
- further
- furthermore
- as well as
- likewise
- moreover

- in addition
- first (second, etc.)
- also
- even more
- not to mention
- together with
- not only ... but also

Add information that disagrees with your argument, exceptions, limits to your argument

During an argument, sometimes you need to include information that disagrees with your argument, or information that limits the extent of your claim. This action can strengthen your stance as it closes down the scope of your argument.

Examples:

- *One of the most common questions related to citations in academic formats relates to the placement of the actual citation. **Whereas several styles, such as Chicago and APA use footnotes, others, such as MLA, prefer in-text, parenthetical citations.***
- *One of the most common questions related to citations in academic formats relates to the placement of the actual citation. The Chicago Manual of Style and the APA's guidelines use footnotes, **whereas the MLA calls for in-text, parenthetical citations.***
- ***Nevertheless, the most important thing to remember with academic writing is to be consistent with your style.***

Use these transitional words in the beginning or middle of a sentence in order to introduce information that limits your argument or when you want to introduce information that disagrees with your claim:

- whereas
- but
- yet
- still
- on the other hand
- however
- nevertheless
- on the contrary
- in contrast
- conversely
- in any case

- nonetheless
- though/ Although
- otherwise
- notwithstanding
- albeit
- rather
- even so
- be that as it may
- meanwhile
- in spite of
- despite

Compare two sets of information

During an argument, sometimes you want to compare your argument with another related argument.

The following transitional words are usually used in the beginning or middle of a sentence to introduce a new, related line of thinking.

Examples:

- *There are merits to both citation styles. The MLA's in-text citations make references immediately clear to the reader. **At the same time**, footnotes, like those used in APA and Chicago style papers can keep your text from becoming cluttered or distracting.*
- *Oral academic debates consist of arguments and counterarguments. **In similar fashion**, when writing for academic purposes, you can enrich your thesis by juxtaposing it with an anti-thesis.*

- at the same time
- in the meantime
- in the same way
- by the same token
- similarly
- likewise
- in similar fashion

- simultaneously
- concurrently
- comparatively
- in comparison
- correspondingly
- vis a vis
- on the other hand

Transition between thoughts or concepts that are in a sequence

Use the following words for transition between thoughts or concepts that follow a specific sequence.

They are usually used in the beginning or middle of a sentence, depending on the type of information they arrange, however, they always arrange information in a way that implies a before/after order.

Examples:

- ***First**, she decided to read each paragraph closely and take notes. **Next**, she wrote all of these notes together on one page. **Then**, she had a one-page summary of the article that could be read quickly whenever she needed to refresh her memory on the topic.*

- First, second, third, etc.
- next
- then
- following this
- thereafter
- afterward
- furthermore

- concurrently
- before
- after
- prior to (this)
- previously
- subsequently
- finally

Emphasize

During an argument, sometimes it becomes important to emphasize on a piece of information or add intensity to a statement.

Add the following transitional words into the beginning or middle of a sentence, directly linked to the information you would like to highlight or stress.

Examples:

- *Many students, **predominantly those with less academic writing experience**, wonder if summaries and paraphrases need to be quoted, too. **In fact, they do**. As a general rule, any information that a writer uses which is not their own original idea **absolutely must be cited**. For many newer writers **it is important to realize that the use of paraphrases and summaries does not weaken their own writing**. **Indeed, the common belief is that the use of other writers' material strengthens your own academic writing by positioning your thoughts in close proximity to the larger, ongoing academic discussion.***

- definitely
- obviously
- in fact
- indeed
- absolutely
- emphatically
- unquestionably
- in particular
- particularly
- significantly
- predominantly

- principally
- largely
- markedly
- evidently
- certainly
- undeniably
- undoubtedly
- surely
- notably
- namely
- chiefly
- specifically

Emphatic Phrases:

- important to realize
- as has been noted/ said
- another key point
- most compelling evidence
- must be remembered
- point often overlooked

- to point out
- with attention to
- without a doubt
- with this in mind
- without reservation
- by all means

Give Examples

During an argument, sometimes you need to introduce an example to help explain your argument.

Examples:

- *Just like most other forms of communication, academic writing can be stronger when a writer offers examples. **To illustrate this point**, consider the very text you are reading now. Not all examples need to be dramatic. **This one, for example**, serves as a simple illustration of the writer's ideas in action.*

These transitional words are usually used in the beginning or middle of the example-sentence:

- for example
- for instance
- consider
- take the case of
- namely

- e.g.,
- to demonstrate
- to illustrate
- as an illustration

Clarify

It is very important to clarify the point you are trying to make by rephrasing it or simply explaining it more.

Use the following transitional words in the beginning or middle of a sentence, to introduce clarifying information or additional explanations.

Examples:

- ***In short**, academic writing should be clear and compelling. The use of other writers' ideas can help you to build a stronger argument, and the use of examples can help you to demonstrate how your ideas work. **In other words**, both tools can be very useful when you write your paper.*

- that is to say
- in other words
- to put it differently
- to put it another way
- to explain

- to demonstrate
- i.e., (that is)
- to clarify
- to rephrase
- in short

Speaking about cause, condition, or purpose

The following transitional words are usually used in the beginning or middle of a sentence when you want to identify the reasons that something is the way that it is. Also on occasions when you want to explain why your line of thought is useful or important.

Examples:

- *One of the most effective ways to introduce another writer's thought, or to offer an example is to contextualize it **in order to** link it to your line of thought. Although some examples or quotes may seem obvious, **for the purpose of** clarity, it is always nice to offer some context to the reader. **In the event that** your quote or example seems self-explanatory, trust your instincts. **If** you feel that something doesn't work, **then** it probably doesn't.*

- in the event that
- granted (that)
- as / so long as
- on (the) condition (that)
- for the purpose of
- with this intention
- with this in mind
- in the hope that
- to the end that
- for fear that
- in order to
- seeing / being that

- because of
- as
- since
- while
- lest
- provided that
- given that
- owing to
- due to
- If ... then
- unless
- in view of

Introduce a summary or conclusion

You can use the following words and expressions when you mean to summarize a body of information that has already been introduced in your text or to conclude an argument based on previously mentioned information.

Examples:

- ***To conclude, academic writing can be fairly systematic.** Don't be afraid to use other writers' work, just be sure to cite it properly. Furthermore, be sure to give examples. Your writing will be stronger for it. **Finally, don't hesitate to ask for help.** Your writing, like many other things, can always benefit from a little bit of feedback.*

Insert the following transitional words, in the beginning or middle of a sentence, to imply that you want to round up an ongoing argument:

- in brief
- to conclude
- in conclusion
- to summarize
- summing up
- to sum up
- in sum
- in summary
- in short

- thus
- hence
- therefore
- finally
- ultimately
- altogether
- overall
- given these points/facts