UNIVERSITY WRITING PROGRAM

# Stitching Words

## Stitching Defined:

“Words that tie together the parts of an argument, most commonly (a) by using transition (linking or turning) words as signposts to indicate how a new section, paragraph, or sentence follows from the one immediately previous; but also (b) by recollection of an earlier idea or part of the essay, referring back to it either by explicit statement or by echoing key words or resonant phrases quoted or stated earlier. The repeating of key or thesis concepts is especially helpful at points of transition from one section to another, to show how the new section fits in.”

-Gordon Harvey, *The Elements of the Academic Essay*, 2009

Below are some of the most commonly used transitions or stitching words and phrases in academic writing grouped by their function and theme:

## Similarity

also

in like manner

in the same way

just as … so too

likewise

similarly

## Exception/Contrast

although

but

conversely

however

in spite of

on the one hand

on the other hand

nevertheless

nonetheless

notwithstanding

in contrast

on the contrary

still

yet

## Sequence/Order

first

second

third

next

then

finally

## Time

after

afterward

at last

before

currently

during

earlier

immediately

later

meanwhile

now

recently

simultaneously

subsequently

then

## Example

as evidence

for example

for instance

namely

specifically

to illustrate

## Emphasis

even

indeed

in fact

of course

truly

## Place/Position

above

adjacent

below

beyond

here

in front

in back

nearby

there

## Additional Support or Evidence

additionally

again

also

and

as well

besides

equally important

further

furthermore

in addition

moreover

then

## Cause and Effect

accordingly

consequently

for this reason

hence

since

so

therefore

thus

## Conclusion/Summary

finally

in a word

in brief

briefly

in conclusion

in the end

in the final analysis

on the whole

thus

to conclude

to summarize

in sum

to sum up

in summary

in any event

in short

Credit: Adapted from Gordon Harvey, *The Elements of the Academic Essay*, 2009; The Writing Center At UNC, “Transitions,” 2020.

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