

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 the same way	likewise
in like manner	just as ... so too	similarly

Exception/Contrast

although	in spite of	nonetheless	still
but	on the one hand	notwithstanding	yet
conversely	on the other hand	in contrast	
however	nevertheless	on the contrary	

Sequence/Order

first	third	then
second	next	finally

Time

after	currently	later	simultaneously
afterward	during	meanwhile	subsequently
at last	earlier	now	then
before	immediately	recently	

Example

as evidence	for instance	specifically
for example	namely	to illustrate

Emphasis

even	in fact	truly
indeed	of course	

Place/Position

above	beyond	in back
adjacent	here	nearby
below	in front	there

Additional Support or Evidence

additionally	and	equally important	in addition
again	as well	further	moreover
also	besides	furthermore	then

Cause and Effect

accordingly	for this reason	since	therefore
consequently	hence	so	thus

Conclusion/Summary

finally	in conclusion	thus	to sum up
in a word	in the end	to conclude	in summary
in brief	in the final analysis	to summarize	in any event
briefly	on the whole	in sum	in short

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

The Brandeis University Writing Program, including the Writing Center, First-Year Writing, and Writing in the Majors, offers support for writing throughout the community, including undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and staff.

For more information, see www.brandeis.edu/UWP or write to UWP@brandeis.edu.