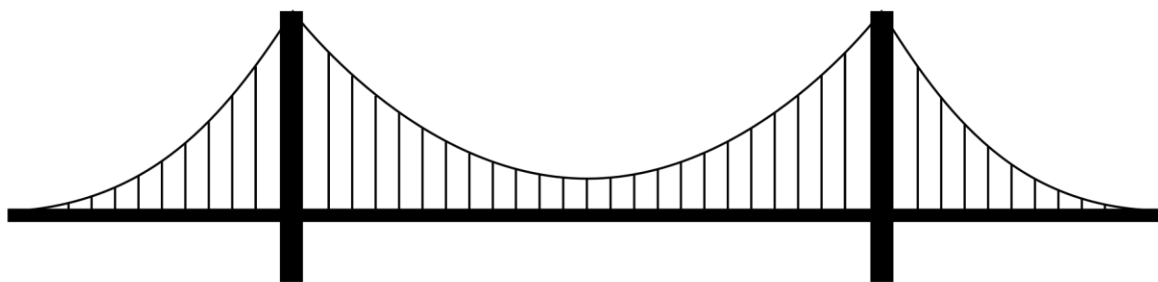


# Building Transitions



When composing an essay, a writer should strive for clarity. One way to make your writing clear is to guide your reader from one idea to the next in order to show how you have arrived at your conclusions.

Like a bridge connecting two points of land, **transitions** connect two points in an essay and help to guide the reader through your thought process.

**Transitions:** words and phrases that help you move from one idea to the next

Transitions show your reader how you are moving from one point to the next, often by showing the relationship between the two ideas. For instance, if the second idea builds on the first, you might use the words *in addition* or *furthermore*. If the second idea contradicts the first, you might use phrases like *however* or *on the other hand*. Choosing words that accurately portray the relationship between ideas is essential; otherwise, you may leave your reader confused.



Sometimes longer transitions are needed in order to move between complex ideas or paragraphs in an essay. For instance, a paragraph might begin by mentioning some key idea from the previous paragraph and use that to connect to a key idea in the following paragraph.

## Common Transitions

to show addition	to show contrast	to show result	to show example	to show sequence
furthermore	however	therefore	for example	first, second, etc.
in addition	on the other hand	thus	for instance	next, then
moreover	nevertheless	consequently	to demonstrate	subsequently
also	on the contrary	for this reason	to illustrate	finally