TRANSITION WORDS

Transitions convey the relationship between successive sentences or paragraphs, clarifying the logic of your argument and making your writing cohesive. Often, the right word or phrase is all you need to connect one statement or idea to another. Below are some suggestions that may help you define and express connections, transforming a choppy or disconnected text into a coherent argument.

**Similarity**
also, in the same way, just as...so too, likewise, similarly

**Exception/Contrast**
but, 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, at the same time, simultaneously, subsequently, then, thereafter, finally, previously

**Example**
for example, for instance, namely, specifically, to illustrate

**Emphasis**
even, indeed, in fact, of course, truly, in any case, naturally, clearly, surprisingly, always, emphatically, without a doubt, certainly, undeniable, obviously

**Place/Position**
above, adjacent, below, beyond, here, in front, in back, behind, nearby, there

**Cause and Effect**
accordingly, consequently, hence, so, therefore, thus, as a result, thus

**Additional Support of Evidence**
additionally, again, also, and, as well, besides, equally important, further, furthermore, in addition, moreover, then too

**Conclusion/Summary**
finally, in a word, in brief, in conclusion, in the end, in the final analysis, on the whole, thus, in sum, in summary, therefore, accordingly, consequently

This handout was adapted from one available at the UNC online writing center
http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb