

Connecting Sentences

Soc Sci 172AW

How to Connect Sentences: Key Points

- Good writing is more than grammar/spellcheck
- Every sentences should relate to the one that came before
 - Avoid piling up information
 - Instead, build an argument
- Tools
 - Transitions
 - Pointing words

Transitions: Example

- Tells the reader that this sentence is providing a concrete example for the point made above it
 - “After the American Revolution, women’s political participation was restricted. For example, only one state (New Jersey) allowed women to vote.”
 - “Economic inequality was evident during the American Revolution. For example, wealthy men were able to pay money to avoid military service.”

EXAMPLE

after all
as an illustration
consider
for example

for instance
specifically
to take a case in point

Transitions: Addition

- Tells the reader that this sentence is adding more information
 - “After the American Revolution, women’s political participation was restricted. For example, only one state (New Jersey) allowed women to vote. In addition, women were limited to indirect participation, as their political influence was to be exerted through their husbands and sons.”

ADDITION

also
and
besides
furthermore
in addition

indeed
in fact
moreover
so too

Transitions: Contrast

- Tells the reader that this sentence will be adding conflicting/contradictory information or modifying the preceding point
 - “The Declaration of Independence promised equality for all when it declared ‘all men are created equal’. However, this equality was limited to white, property owning men. For example, women’s political participation was restricted after the Revolution.”

CONTRAST

although
but
by contrast
conversely
despite
even though
however
in contrast

nevertheless
nonetheless
on the contrary
on the other hand
regardless
whereas
while yet

Transitions: Cause and Effect

- Tells the reader that the info in this sentence was caused by the info in the preceding sentence
 - “At the time of the Revolution, society viewed women as mentally and emotionally weaker than men. As a result, there was almost no serious consideration of granting women full political rights.”

CAUSE AND EFFECT

accordingly	so
as a result	then
consequently	therefore
hence	thus
since	

Transitions: Choose Wisely!

- “At the time of the Revolution, women were seen as mentally and emotionally weaker than men. In contrast, there was almost no serious consideration of granting women full political rights.”
- “The Declaration of Independence promised equality for all when it declared ‘all men are created equal’. As a result, this equality was limited to white, property owning men.”

Pointing Words

- Use words such as “these,” “this,” “such,” “her,”
- Compare:
 - “America stressed the ideas of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It held others in bondage. There was racism and inequality.”
 - “Though America was a nation that stressed the ideas of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, it was also a nation that held other human beings in bondage. This contradiction of beliefs would foreshadow the perpetuation of racism and inequality.”

Pointing Words, cont.

- Compare:
 - “The Declaration of Independence promised equality for all when it declared ‘all men are created equal’. Only white men who owned property could vote.”
 - “The Declaration of Independence promised equality for all when it declared ‘all men are created equal’. However, this equality was limited to white, property owning men.”