

Transition Words

A good...

First,

First of all,

One...

One example...

One way...

The first...

Another...

Second...

The next...

Also,

One other...

In addition,

A better...

Next,

The third...

Another...

Finally,

Last,

The final...

Another example...

The best...

Equally important...

Remind

•conclusions•

In fact,

Obviously,

To sum up,

In conclusion,

Truly,

Definitely,

Certainly

All in all,

Surely,

Clearly,

Transitions

A good A better The best

First Another Next

First In addition Equally important

First Second Third

First of all The next Another

First of all In addition Finally

First of all Next The final

First of all Second Last

One Also

One Another Finally

One One other Along with Last

One example Another example

One way Another way

The first The second

Slow down!

Give a reason, detail,
or fact. Use a transition.

Computers

During the last three years I have learned several things about taking care of a computer. First, I learned the proper way to turn a computer on and off. Next, my teachers have taught me how to put in and take out a floppy disk. I also know how to save all of my work and not destroy files that are on the hard drive. Most importantly, I can now use a keyboard correctly. In fact, I have learned these things so well that I taught my little sister how to use a computer.

Conclusions

Remember to ...

- Restate your position.
- Remind the reader of your topic.
- Use synonyms.
- Summarize information, encourage readers, convince the audience, or challenge them to think.

Go back!
Remind the reader of
your topic.

Helpful words and phrases:

- In fact
- Obviously
- To sum up
- Truly
- Definitely
- Certainly
- In conclusion
- All in all
- Surely
- Clearly

The final
statement is
important!

Examples:

1. To sum up, writing a paragraph is simple if you just remember to organize and use transitions.
2. Obviously, all students must learn to write paragraphs that are clear and interesting.
3. Learning to write paragraphs is certainly necessary.

Chores

Although I do not like to do chores, I must do them to earn my allowance. One chore I do each day is to take out the trash. Another chore I do every day is empty the dishwasher. Finally, every week I must pick up the mess in my room. **I definitely do not like to do chores, but I do like spending my allowance.**

Topic Sentences

Occasion/Position Statements

Occasion = Reason for writing

Position = What you plan to prove or explain

Go!

Write a topic sentence.

Starter Words:

- After
- Although
- As
- Before
- Even though
- If
- Since
- Unless
- Until
- When
- Whenever
- While

When students write paragraphs, they must start with strong topic sentences.

If you want to write a good, clear paragraph, try using the accordion paragraph method.

Power (Number) Statements

Number Words:

- two
- three
- four
- several
- a number of
- a couple
- some
- a few
- many

Third graders learned two ways to write topic sentences.

Everyone knew several things about writing paragraphs.

Action Verb Statements

Action topic sentences contain an action verb.

My friends and I ~~ACTIVE~~ love playing in the snow.

My baby sister ~~ACTIVE~~ makes me laugh.

Where or When + What's Happening Statements

Where	+	What's Happening
In science class		we read about life on a spaceship.
When	+	What's Happening
Yesterday		I wrote a great story.

And, But, and Or Statements

Use these conjunctions to help you write your topic sentence.

Conjunctions:

- and
- but
- so
- nor
- yet
- or

To stay healthy, we need to eat the right foods, so we should make smart decisions about the snacks we choose.

The girls were determined to win the game, but they knew it would not be easy.

The children made great plans for the party, and everyone had a wonderful time.

Compare/Contrast Statements

Use one of the topic sentence methods. Include a compare/contrast word.

Compare/Contrast Words:

- different
- the same
- unlike
- in common
- better
- alike
- differences
- similar
- worse

The two books about kangaroos are similar.

My cousins look alike, but they have many differences.