Ways to Create Transitions Between Paragraphs

Making transitions between ideas is important, which also includes connecting paragraphs so the paper flows smoothly from one thought to the next. Below are some suggestions for making those smooth transitions from paragraph to paragraph:

1) Use the final sentence of a paragraph to sum it up and lead into the next one:

   . . . The girls danced together for a number of years until Suzy broke her leg.
   Ironically, Suzy broke her leg while riding her bike to practice.

2) Use the first sentence of a paragraph as the transition from the previous paragraph:

   . . . The builders were not held responsible for the damage.
   As they continued on after the incident, the workers couldn’t help but feel resentful over what had happened. The next step was to rebuild not only the structure but relationships as well.

3) Use key words from the previous paragraph in the first sentence of the paragraph:

   . . . The tiny house consisted of three rooms: a bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen.
   The kitchen was the largest of the three rooms and was where most of the living took place.

4) Ask a question at the end of one paragraph and answer it in the next one:

   . . . What had occurred that couldn’t be shared with the parents?
   The parents discovered too soon what had happened when the police knocked on their door.
Transitional Words and Phrases
(Adapted from The Little Brown Handbook 5th Edition)

**Time**
- after a while
- afterward
- as long as
- as soon as
- at last
- at length
- at that time
- before
- earlier
- formerly
- immediately
- in the meantime
- in the past
- lately
- later
- meanwhile
- now
- presently
- shortly
- simultaneously
- since
- so far
- soon
- subsequently
- then
- thereafter
- until
- until now
- when

**Adding One Thought to Another**
- again
- also
- and
- and then
- besides
- equally important
- finally
- first
- further
- furthermore
- in addition

- in the first place
- last
- moreover
- next
- second
- still
- too

**Compare Ideas**
- also
- in the same way
- likewise
- similarly

**Contrast Ideas**
- although
- and yet
- but
- but at the same time
- despite
- even so
- even though
- for all that
- however
- in contrast
- in spite of
- nevertheless
- notwithstanding
- on the contrary
- on the other hand
- regardless
- still
- though
- yet

**To Show Cause and Effect**
- accordingly
- as a result
- because
- consequently
- for this purpose
- hence
- otherwise
- since
- then
- therefore
- thereupon
- thus
- to this end
- with this object

**To Give Examples or Intensify**
- after all
- an illustration of
- even
- for example
- for instance
- indeed
- in fact
- it is true
- of course
- specifically
- that is (to say)
- to illustrate
- truly

**Summarize, Repeat, Conclude**
- all in all
- altogether
- as has been said
- in brief
- in conclusion
- in other words

in particular
- in short
- in simpler terms
- in summary
- on the whole
- that is
- therefore
- to put it differently
- to summarize

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