

It can sometimes be difficult to start a sentence to express ideas, or find words to show the relationship between ideas. Below is a list of possible sentence starters, transitional and other words that may be useful.

To introduce

This essay discusses ...	... is explored ...	... is defined ...
The definition of ... will be given	... is briefly outlined ...	... is explored ...
The issue focused on	... is demonstrated ...	... is included ...
In this essay	... is explained ...	... are identified ...
The key aspect discussed ...	... are presented ...	... is justified ...
Views on range from	... is evaluated ...	... is examined ...
The central theme ...	... is described ...	... is analysed ...
Emphasised are ...	... is explained and illustrated with examples ...	

To conclude

In summary, ...	To review, ...	In conclusion, ...
In brief, ...	To summarise, ...	To sum up, ...
To conclude, ...	Thus, ...	Hence, ...
It has been shown that, ...	In short, ...	

To compare and contrast

Similarly, ...	In the same way ...	Likewise, ...
In comparison ...	Complementary to this ...	Then again, ...
However, ...	This is in contrast to ...	In contrast, ...
And yet ...	Nevertheless, ...	Conversely, ...
On the contrary, ...	On the other hand, ...	Notwithstanding ...
Whereas ...	In contrast to ...	That aside, ...
While this is the case ...	... disputes ...	Despite this, ...

To give examples

For example, ...	... as can be seen in ...	... supports ...
For instance, ...	... as demonstrated by ...	... is observed ...
Specifically, ...	... is shown ...	... exemplifies ...
Such as ...	As an example ...	To illustrate, ...

To add ideas

Also, ...	Equally important ...	Subsequently, ...
Futhermore, ...	Moreover, ...	As well as
Next...	Another essential point...	Additionally, ...
More importantly, ...	In the same way ...	Another ...
Then, ...	In addition, ...	Besides, ...
Then again, ...	Firstly, ... secondly, ... thirdly, ... finally, ...	To elaborate, ...

To show relationships or outcome

Therefore ...	As a result ...	For that reason ...
Hence, ...	Otherwise, ...	Consequently, ...
The evidence suggests/shows ...	It can be seen that ...	With regard to ...
After examining	These factors contribute to ...	It is apparent that ...
Considering ... it can be concluded that ...	Subsequently,	The effect is ...
The outcome is ...	The result ...	The correlation ...
The relationship ...	The link ...	The convergence ...
The connection ...	... interacts with ...	Both
... affects ...	Thus it is ...	... causes ...
... influences ...	... predicts ...	... leads to ...
... informs ...	... presupposes	... emphasises
... demonstrates ...	... impacts on ...	... supports ...

To present uncommon or rare ideas

Seldom ...	Few ...	Not many ...
A few ...	... is uncommon	... is scarce ...
Rarely ...	... is rare ...	... is unusual ...

To present common or widespread ideas

Numerous ...	Many ...	More than ...
Several ...	Almost all ...	The majority ...
Most ...	Commonly ...	Significant ...
... is prevalent ...	... is usual ...	Usually ...

To present inconclusive ideas

Perhaps ...	... may be ...	... might be ...
There is limited evidence for ...	... is debated ...	... is possibly ...
... could ...	... may include ...	

To present prior or background ideas

In the past, ...	Historically, ...	Traditionally, ...
Customarily, ...	Beforehand, ...	Originally, ...
Prior to this, ...	Earlier, ...	Formerly, ...
Previously, ...	Over time, ...	At the time of ...
Conventionally, ...	Foundational to this is ...	In earlier ...
Initially, ...	At first, ...	Recently ...
Until now, ...	The traditional interpretation ...	

To present others' ideas

According to ...	Based on the findings of ... it can be argued...	... proposed that ...
As explained by ...	... states that ...	... claims that ...
However, ... stated that ...	... suggested ...	... concluded that ...
Similarly, ... stated that	... for example, ...	... agreed that ...
Based on the ideas of ...	... defined as	... relates ...
As identified by ...	... disputed that ...	... contrasts ...
With regard to ... argued that ...	... concluded that ...	... confirmed that ...
... argues	... highlights ...	... demonstrates ...
... found that ...	... identifies ...	... wrote that ...
... demonstrated ...	... also ...	... reported
... pointed out that ...	... maintained that ...	... hypothesised that ...
... expressed the opinion that ...	... also mentioned	... asserts that
... identified ...	... goes on to state/suggest/say	... emphasises
... challenges the idea	... showed that ...	... explored the idea ...

To keep the 'I' out of academic writing

It can be argued...	Arguably...	It may be that...
This assignment will present the following point of view...	Some theorists, notably Bloggs (1990) and Jones (1992) have argued...	There are two sides to this question. Firstly ...
Another point of view suggests however, that ...	This assignment will attempt to show that...	In conclusion it can be argued that...
It can be seen that...	One point of view is that ...	However ...

Adapted from the following source

Manalo, E., Wont-Toi, G., & Bartlett-Trafford, J. (2009). *The business of writing: Written communication skills for business students* (3rd ed.). Auckland: Pearson Education New Zealand



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