Essay Writing: Transition Words

1. Sentence-openers (when used with care).

And furthermore or nor indeed also

Moreover in fact first, second...

2. Adding and illustrating or expanding your point.

For instance similarly likewise

For example

3. You are adding up consequences, summarizing minor points to emphasize a major point.

Therefore thus finally So on the whole all in all And so in other words in short

Hence consequently

4. You are adding a qualifying point or illustration.

Frequently specifically especially In particular usually in general

Occasionally

5. You are conceding a point to the opposition, or recognizing a point just off your main line.

Of course to be sure no doubt Granted (that) doubtless certainly

You are reversing or deflecting the line of thought, usually back to your own side.

But not at all however

Surely on the contrary no

Yet

7. You return the thought to your own side after a concession.

Still nevertheless notwithstanding

8. You are attacking a concession to one of your points. Do not use while for whereas: while means basically, "during the time that." It is ambiguous unless restricted to time.			
	Although	though	whereas
9.	You are connecting a reason to an assertion.		
	Because	since	for
10. You are qualifying and restricting a more general idea.			
	If When	unless provided	lest in case
11. You are glancing at tentative or hypothetical conditions that strengthen and clarify your point.			
	As if	as though	even if