

## TRANSITIONS

Oftentimes, an instructor will tell a student that his or her writing is "choppy." Most students are perplexed by such terminology. And, rightfully so....

"Choppiness" may refer to two different types of disconnection within writing:

"Choppy" sentences may simply lack the rhythmic flow that one would expect from college writing.

-OR-

"Choppy" may refer to the lack of continuity of ideas, which may also increase the lack of rhythmic flow in writing.

Either way, a simple fix for your writing may be to add transitions.

Transitions are sentence- and paragraph-level devices which help to increase the flow, the ease of reading, and help to add a sort of seamlessness to the movement between ideas.

### SENTENCE-LEVEL TRANSITIONS

EX: (without transitions)

I wake up.

I shower.

I eat breakfast.

I brush my teeth.

I drive to work.

If we put these ideas into paragraph form:

I wake up. I shower. I eat breakfast. I brush my teeth. I drive to work.

We end up with a "choppy" progression of ideas.

However, if we add transitions, then we can see an immediate difference.

In the morning, I wake up. Then, I shower. After my shower, I eat breakfast. After breakfast, I brush my teeth. Finally, I drive to work.

TWO TYPES OF SENTENCE-LEVEL TRANSITIONS

Two types of sentence-level transitions are available to writers.

1. Use Conjunctive Adverbs

Conjunctive Adverbs (Used for Transitional Purposes):

- In Addition
- Additionally
- As a result
- Therefore
- Moreover
- However
- For example
- Consequently

2. Use Regular Adverbs (which modify the entire sentence):

- First
- Second
- Third
- Fourth
- Finally

Conjunctive adverbs and regular adverbs may be placed in the front and/or middle of sentences.

EX:

First, \_\_\_\_\_.

First, \_\_\_\_\_; second,  
\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ ; however,  
\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_. For example,  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Consequently, \_\_\_\_\_; moreover,  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## PARAGRAPH-LEVEL TRANSITIONS

Three types of paragraph-level transitions are available to writers.

### 1. Use Conjunctive Adverbs

Justin really likes going to college. He likes his professors, and he seems to learn well from them. He likes living in the dorms with his high-school buddies. And, he's realized that college presents the opportunity to date more people.

However, Justin has realized that there are many hazards to dating in college. Unlike the people that he knew in high school, he is unsure if he can trust an unknown person. In high school, everyone knows everyone, and people have reputations which are very public. Justin might know more about a person before dating them. In college, things are different. Hardly anyone knows anyone else.

### 2. Use Regular Adverbs.

When Catherine takes photographs, she normally has a very distinct process. She is an artist after all. And, taking the right kinds of pictures is very important to her. She wants to have a decent portfolio in order to work as a professional. So, she adheres to her process carefully.

First, she makes sure that she finds a good subject. She moves them into position, and she asks them very specific questions about their best sides and their sensitivity to light. Catherine makes every effort to align the subject with a good background. She considers color contrast really important in obtaining a good picture.

Second, she makes sure that she has the right equipment. She often works with both digital and traditional types of photographic equipment. She uses digital to photograph things which need to have their intensity and sharpness adjusted. And, she likes to use traditional photographic equipment to catch time-sensitive subjects (such as flowers blooming). She can often set the exposure more easily with her older cameras than with the digital ones.

### 3. Echo the last sentence of the previous paragraph

Modern Olympic judo focuses on the techniques of throwing an opponent. Further, Olympic judo also focuses on grappling with him when the opponent arrives on the ground. Both throwing and grappling techniques are found in modern Olympic Judo. Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, a derivative of judo, extends the limitations of Olympic judo by incorporating older techniques not used in modern Olympic judo.

The techniques of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu include many banned techniques in Olympic Judo. These techniques are similar to those found in the pre-Kodokan judo era (when judo was more like traditional jujitsu). These techniques incorporate punches and joint-locks not found in Olympic judo. Since the purpose of Olympic Judo is sport, then the purpose of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu is obviously self-defense. Both, while different, are useful in their own ways.

4. Allude to the next paragraph in the last sentence of the paragraph.

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