Transitions

After you’ve decided how you want to organize your essay, transitions will help it to *flow smoothly* from one topic to the next.

**TRANSITIONS BETWEEN SENTENCES:** Often a single word will be sufficient.

Examples:

Without transition: My boyfriend began talking about getting married.  
I decided to go away to school.

With transition:   **When** my boyfriend began talking about getting married,  
I decided to go away to school.

Without transition: Martha adores her son-in-law. He hasn’t worked in a year.
With transition:   Martha adores her son-in-law **even though** he hasn’t worked in a year.

Without transition: Drinking and driving is a dangerous combination. Driving while talking on a cell phone is unsafe.
With transition:   Drinking and driving is a dangerous combination. **Similarly**, driving while talking on a cell phone is unsafe.

Without transition: Even very young children can be expected to do household chores.  
Very young children can fold napkins for dinner or match socks.

With transition:   Even very young children can be expected to do household chores, **such as** folding napkins for dinner or matching socks.

**TRANSITIONS BETWEEN PARAGRAPHS:** You’ll usually need a transitional sentence or two.

Example:

Without transition: ¶ discussing the benefits of remaining unmarried  
¶ discussing the benefits of getting married

With transition:   ¶ discussing the benefits of remaining unmarried.  
**Yes, there are certainly benefits to remaining unmarried. However,**  
consider the very many benefits of marriage. First, ...