

Grade 6 Playlist: Using Transitions to Clarify the Relationships Among Claims and Reasons

Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.1.C:

- Use words, phrases, and clauses to clarify the relationships among claim(s) and reasons.

Welcome

When writers support a claim, they need to provide enough reasons and evidence for readers to consider the claim as valid or right. When readers can clearly see the relationship between the claim and reasons or evidence, they can understand the full argument. This understanding may shape readers' opinions on the subject. To best shape readers' opinions, writers can use specific transitional words, phrases, and clauses to show and clarify the relationship between the writer's claims and the reasons they provide as support.

Objectives

In this playlist, students will learn how to:

- identify the relationship among claims and reasons.
- use transitions to clarify the relationships among claims and reasons.

Review

Key Terms

- In an argument, a **claim** is a statement or declaration of a belief, stance, or opinion.
- **Reasons** provide support for claims. Their purpose is to explain why and/or how a claim is valid.
- To determine the relationship among claims and reasons is to understand the connections between the evidence for a claim and the claim itself. **Transition words and phrases** help writers show the relationship or connection between the reason and the claim. If the phrase includes a subject and a verb, the phrase becomes a **transitional clause**.

Exploring the Standard

A Closer Look: Transitions

Using transitions helps writers explain and support a claim. Each type of transition shows the reader the relationship between the claims and reasons provided. In argumentative writing, writers can use the following steps to choose transitions that show the relationship between claims and reasons:



1. decide the best pieces of information to support their claim
2. decide how that information relates or connects to the claim
3. choose the most appropriate transitional word, phrase, or clause that best shows the relationship.

The following tables provide common examples of different transitions, and the relationships that the transitions show.

Transitions to Show Examples				
for example	for instance	together with	to illustrate	to clarify

Transitions to Show Additional Information				
additionally	also	further	furthermore	moreover
in addition	equally important	again	as well	and/also

Transitions to Show Comparison and/or Contrast				
in the same way	in like manner	by the same token	similarly	likewise
however	nonetheless	on the contrary	and yet	but
otherwise	nevertheless	in contrast	at the same time	on the other hand

Transitions to Show Cause and Effect				
therefore	consequently	accordingly	thus	hence
as a result	because (of)	If ... then ...	since	on account of

Read!

Read the following for more examples of transitions and their uses.

<http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/style/transitioncues.html>

Watch!

Watch the following video for more information about transitions.

<https://www.sophia.org/tutorials/transition-words--6?pathway=ccss-ela-standard-w61c>

A Closer Look: Using Transitions to Clarify the Relationship Among Claims and Reasons

A student can use transitions to clarify the relationship among claims and reasons while writing an argumentative essay. For example, a teacher has assigned an essay on the pros and cons of extracurricular activities, such as playing sports or musical instruments after school. Through researching the topic, a student has come to the conclusion that extracurricular activities are beneficial to students as long as they maintain a reasonable and healthy schedule. Thus, the student's claim is the following.

