

Grade 8 Playlist: Using Transitions for Claims, Counterclaims, Reasons, and Evidence

Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.1.C:

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

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 create cohesion and to clarify the relationship between the writer's claims and the reasons they provide as support. Transitions can also be used to connect claims to counterclaims and keep the ideas organized.

Objectives

In this playlist, students will learn how to:

- determine the appropriate word, phrase, or clause to connect and clarify ideas.
- use transitions to create cohesion and to clarify relationships among claims, counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

Review

Key Terms

- In an argument, a **claim** is a statement or declaration of a belief, stance, or opinion.
- A **counterclaim** is a statement that provides an opposing or different belief, stance, or opinion.
- **Reasons** provide support for claims, and **evidence** provides data 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**.
- Creating **cohesion**, or **flow** in an essay is to connect ideas by showing the relationship from one sentence to the next through transition words and/or phrases.



Watch!

Watch this video for techniques to use for adding cohesion and flow to the relationship between claims, reasons, and evidence in persuasive writing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVaoCd-S3Ko>

Exploring the Standard**A Closer Look: Transitions**

Using transitions helps writers add cohesion and flow to their writing. Transitions often act as a “bridge” to connect one sentence to another, and they also add clarity to the relationship between the claims, reasons, and evidence provided. In persuasive writing and argumentative writing, writers can use the following steps to choose transitions that create cohesion and that show the relationship between claims and reasons:

- (1) decide the best pieces of information (reasons and evidence/proof) 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 and connects one sentence to another.

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

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

Transitions to Show Evidence (Outside Sources/Research)				
according to... (someone, research, or a study/fact)	evidence shows	the study reveals	(the author) claims	the work of (someone) indicates

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

Transitions to Show Cause and Effect				
therefore	consequently	accordingly	thus	hence
as a result	because (of)	for that reason	since	on account of

