

*Smart, Creative and Entrepreneurial*



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# ESSAY WRITING

SRI LESTARI, MA

SESSION 12

## **ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY: THE FIRST DRAFT**



# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Students are able to
  - Identify and use transition words and connectors in an argumentative paragraphs
  - Write the first draft of an argumentative essay from the outline

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# TRANSITIONAL WORDS

- The purpose of the argumentative mode is to change the way a reader thinks or behaves.
- A writer achieves this purpose by convincing a reader of the truth and logic in a particular argument he or she is presenting in the essay.
- In order to be convincing, a writer should address more than one side of the argument in the essay.
- The writer will agree with one side, and will refute, or use information to argue against, another side.
- The writer must remember to order his or her details appropriately and help the reader follow the order by including transitional words and phrases.
- These words and phrases will **appear not only at the beginning of each new paragraph, but also within the paragraph, between ideas and before source information.**

# TRANSITIONAL WORDS

- To improve your writing you need to make sure that your ideas, both in sentences and paragraphs, **stick together or have coherence** and that the gap between ideas is bridged smoothly.
- One way to do this is by using transitions - words or phrases or techniques that help **bring two ideas together.**
- Transitional words and phrases represent **one way of gaining coherence.**
- Certain words help continue an idea, indicate a shift of thought or contrast, or sum up a conclusion.

# TRANSITIONAL WORDS

- **Contrast:** On the contrary, contrarily, notwithstanding, but, however, nevertheless, in spite of, in contrast, yet, on one hand, on the other hand, rather, or, nor, conversely, at the same time, while this may be true.
- **Addition:** And, in addition to, furthermore, moreover, besides, than, too, also, both-and, another, equally important, first, second, etc., again, further, last, finally, not only-but also, as well as, in the second place, next, likewise, similarly, in fact, as a result, consequently, in the same way, for example, for instance, however, thus, therefore, otherwise.

# TRANSITIONAL WORDS

- **Illustration:** Thus, for example, for instance, namely, to illustrate, in other words, in particular, specifically, such as.
- **Examples:** For example, for instance, to illustrate, thus, in other words, as an illustration, in particular.
- **Consequence or Result:** So that, with the result that, thus, consequently, hence, accordingly, for this reason, therefore, so, because, since, due to, as a result, in other words, then.
- **Summary:** Therefore, finally, consequently, thus, in short, in conclusion, in brief, as a result, accordingly.
- **Suggestion:** For this purpose, to this end, with this in mind, with this purpose in mind, therefore

# USING CONNECTORS

- Connectors are to clarify the relationships between ideas.
- Connectors can be used to signal that the second idea will support the first in some way.
- Connectors can be used to contrast the first idea with an opposite or very different idea.
- When they introduce an independent clause, the connector is followed by a comma.

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# CONNECTORS TO SHOW SUPPORT

- One way to support an idea is to give an example that illustrates the idea. Connectors like **for example** and **in particular** introduce example.
  - ✓ Most people are willing to spend money to make their lives easier; **for example**, nearly every new house has an automatic garage door opener.
  - ✓ Children should avoid junk food; **in particular**, they should stay away from sugary snacks.
- A second way to show support is to add facts or explanations that clarify the idea.
  - ✓ The automobile industry is responding to consumer demands for more fuel-efficient cars; **in fact**, the number of available models has tripled in the past three years.



# CONNECTORS TO SHOW OPPOSITION

- It is sometimes difficult for the writer to show that two ideas are opposed to each other. Connectors like *however, in contrast, on the other hand* help the writer **focus the reader's attention on differences.**
  - ✓ I'm late every morning; **however**, I never get into trouble.
  - ✓ Many people enjoy listening to CDs; **in contrast**, live concerts are more exciting.

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# EXERCISE 1

- *Each of the sentences below has two clauses joined by a connector. Write O for opposition if the clauses show opposing information and S for support if they show supporting information.*

- 0   1. The Western calendar is used around the world; however, many countries have a traditional calendar that they also use.
- \_\_\_ 2. Most people say they want to exercise; however, only one in ten adults works out three times a week or more.
- \_\_\_ 3. Frank Lloyd Wright was an architect who liked straight lines; in contrast, Antonio Gaudi preferred bends and curves in his designs.
- \_\_\_ 4. Surgeons try hard to protect their hands; for example, they avoid sports such as baseball that might cause an injury to their fingers.
- \_\_\_ 5. The place where I grew up only has two seasons; however, my new home, New York, has four.
- \_\_\_ 6. Women often buy a house before getting married; in fact, single women purchase approximately one in five homes.

## EXERCISE 2

- *Read the paragraph and edit as necessary. There are four mistakes.*

Most working people will agree that traffic congestion creates too much stress. As large cities grow even bigger, there is often so many traffic that people's productivity is reduced. There are two good solutions that could greatly improve traffic conditions in this city. First, high occupancy vehicle lanes (HOV lanes) are effective. A vehicle can drive in an HOV lane only if the car has at least two passengers. Much workers must begin at work at 9:00 every day, so it is easy for them to carpool. If four people ride together, there are three fewer cars on the road. Providing affordable public transportation is another good solution. Much people like to use public transportation because it is cheap and convenient. However, building an effective public transportation system costs much money.

## USING QUANTITY EXPRESSIONS

- It is important to avoid making a statement that is true for some, but not for all members of a group or category. This is called overgeneralization. Compare the following statements.
  - 1) *Cats hate water*
  - 2) *Most cats hate water.*
- The first statement suggest that all cats in the world hate water. It is untrue because some cats, such as tigers, are good swimmers and enjoy being in water.
- In the second statement, the writer uses **the quantity expression** *most*. The quantity expression qualifies, or limits the generalization, so that the statement is true.

# USING QUANTITY EXPRESSIONS

- **Most, a lot of,** and **some** are used with both plural count nouns and non-count nouns.
  - ✓ **Most** dormitories have Internet access.
  - ✓ **Some** cafeterias offer healthy alternatives to traditional student food.
- **Much** and **a little** are used with non count nouns. (**Much** is not usually used in affirmative statements. Use **a lot of** instead)
  - ✓ Some people have **a lot of** intelligence, but they do not have much common sense.
  - ✓ Students might have **a little** money left for entertainment after paying expenses.
- Many, several, and a few are used with plural nouns.
  - ✓ **Many** Websites charge a fee for information.
  - ✓ **A few** uncooperative participants can destroy a meeting.

## EXERCISE 3

***Circle the correct quantity expression in each sentences.***

- 1) (Many/ A lot of) creativity is necessary for certain types of technology jobs.
- 2) There are (a few / a little) places where the sea level is rising.
- 3) (A little / Several) bills in Congress have tried to protect Internet users from fraud.
- 4) In the history of the Internet, only ( a little / a few) computer viruses have created serious damage.
- 5) (Many / a lot of) time is spent doing research on cures for cancer.
- 6) Did you know that (a little / a few) sleep-deprivation can harm a person's judgement.

## EXERCISE 4

*Using quantity expressions, rewrite the sentences below so that they become more appropriate generalizations.*

<b>Overgeneralization</b>	<b>Appropriate Generalization</b>
1. Everybody has a TV.	<i>Most people have a TV.</i>
2. People do not like change.	<i>Many people do not like change.</i>
3. Computers have the latest software.	
4. Schools are now wireless.	
5. Medications have side effects.	
6. New Yorkers love their city.	
7. Asian countries have hot and humid climates.	
8. Pollution affects everything.	

# WRITING A DRAFT

When writing your drafts, make sure you review your outline and .... :

- provide ample **evidence**, presented logically and fairly
- deal with the **opposing** point of view
- pay particular attention to the organization of your essay. Make sure its structure suits your topic and audience
- address and correct any **fallacies** of logic
- include proper **transitions** to allow your reader to follow your argument



# WRITING A DRAFT

***After writing your first draft, answer the questions on the checklist.***

- Does the essay have five paragraphs?
- Does the introduction include a hook to get the reader's attention along with background information?
- Is the writer's opinion about the issue clearly stated in the thesis statement?
- Does the body paragraph contain facts and reasons that support the opinion?
- Write one or two questions about something that needs clarification or additional support.

## THE EXAMPLE OF FIRST DRAFT ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

The phrases in red are parts to be revised. It might need further explanation, an elaboration to strengthen the arguments or clarify the statements.

### Assignment:

Write a 350-450 word argumentative essay draft about the standards of parental control of media and modern technology that children engage with. State your point of view on whether it is a necessity to have security measures for underage individuals in order to dissuade them from engaging in adult content.

### FIRST DRAFT

#### Parental Control as a Necessary Measure in the Upbringing of Modern Children

Living in the 21st century is connected with almost unceasing consumption of information of all kinds. A wide variety of means, such as television or Internet, allows people to access data they require with ease. However, not all information is useful and beneficial; camouflaged or uncovered violence and pornography make a significant part of information available for everyone (state why underages are in a risk group). And while adults can distinguish between rights and wrongs and safely navigate in this profound, underages are much more sensitive and exposed to its dangers. Thus, a reasonable parental control over information that their children consume is necessary.

The superfluity of easily accessible pornography and other content connected to sex as the first and foremost reason for establishing parental supervision over underages' Internet activity (list possible consequences for children's psychological health). Special software (image filters and blockers) can be used to minimize risks that a child runs into pornographic content by accident. The password shouldn't be set on the computer, because (give a good reason), but spending time on the Internet together with an underage could become a sufficient security measure.

The second reason for establishing control is violence in different forms, advertised and displayed in an attractive way (list most scandalous TV programs and video games). Children tend to adopt and reproduce in real life behavioral patterns they observe. It may result into aggression towards peers, parents, and so on (browse media for examples). Talking about behavioral norms that are acceptable and unacceptable in civilized society as a way to help children distinguish between right and wrong behavior.

Numerous websites and forums using uncensored explicit vocabulary and raising provocative or obscene topics (give examples of such topics). Based on such information children may develop wrong understanding of such topics as religion, racial tolerance, sex and relationship, and so on. Parents should keep an eye on what their children read and discuss debatable topics with them.

Amounts of widely available information today pose new challenges for upbringing underages. In modern era, parents should establish moderate control on their children's activities to ensure that their psychological development goes correctly (restate reasons why underages' mind is vulnerable). The reasons why such control must be enabled are the superfluity of obscene sexual content in the Web, demonstrated violence, and uncensored vocabulary in provocative and debatable topics on different forums

## REFERENCES

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