

Transitions Mini Lesson

When we write transitions, we want to help facilitate a natural flow between ideas. While traditional transitional phrases (such as “also”, “however”, “on the other hand”, “additionally”, “In comparison”, etc) can be useful, you don’t just want to write boring, simplistic transitions that could be used in any essay and for any purpose. It’s important that we construct transitions that are specifically crafted for our essays and link the two ideas in a logical and natural way.

Below we have sample pairs of topic sentences. For each pairing, write a transition that would fit between the two paragraphs.

	Topic Sentence #1	Topic Sentence #2	Transition between the two
1	Ponyboy is a child at the beginning of the novel because he has to be protected.	Ponyboy starts to become an adult when he saves the children from the fire.	
2	Walter Lee Younger’s dream reflects the American Dream’s focus on ownership.	Walter Lee Younger’s dream reflects the American Dream’s focus on success.	
3	George’s decision is an act of mercy because Lennie was going to be murdered anyway.	George’s decision is an act of mercy because Lennie was a danger to himself and others.	
4	Curley’s wife was not given a name in order to show that she is Curley’s property.	Curley’s wife was not given a name to make her seem different than the other characters in the novel.	
5	Candy is outcast from society because of his physical disability and age.	Curley’s wife is outcast from society because she is the only woman in a man’s world.	

Transitioning between the thesis and first paragraph can be exceptionally difficult. Below are some thesis statements followed by their first body paragraphs. See if you can write transitions that are sophisticated and specifically fitted to this essay.

	Thesis Statement	Topic Sentence #1	Transition between the two

1	Ponyboy transitions from child to adult in <i>The Outsiders</i> .	Ponyboy is a child at the beginning of the novel because he has to be protected.	
2	Walter Lee Younger's dream reflects the American Dream in many ways.	Walter Lee Younger's dream reflects the American Dream's focus on ownership.	
3	George's decision to kill Lennie was made out of mercy, not cruelty.	George's decision is an act of mercy because Lennie was going to be murdered anyway.	
4	John Steinbeck elected not to give Curley's wife a name for a variety of reasons.	Curley's wife was not given a name in order to show that she is Curley's property.	
5	In <i>Of Mice and Men</i> , many of the characters are outcast from society because of characteristics outside of their control.	Candy is outcast from society because of his physical disability and age.	