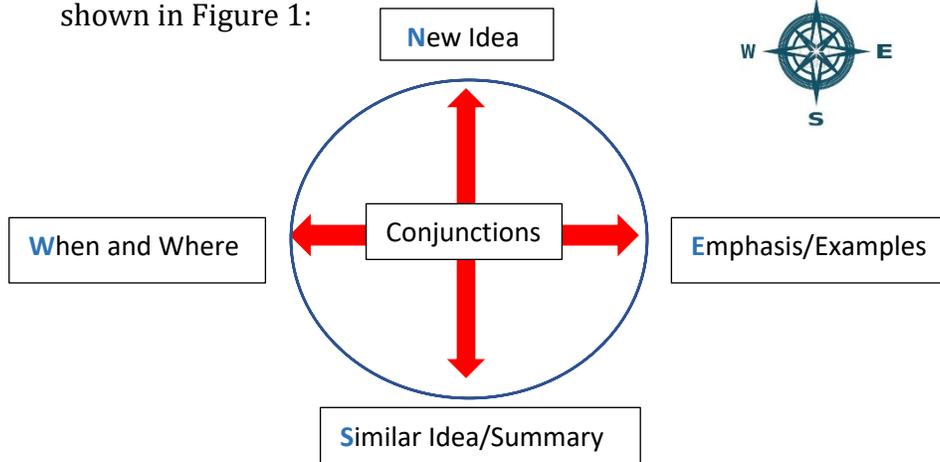


Transition Map

Writing a paper is a road trip. The paper's topic is the destination, and the paper itself is the map that tells the reader how to get there. Transitions are landmarks; they give readers ideas where the paper is going. A transition can be a word or phrase; the different kinds are sorted into five main groups. These five groups can be remembered using a compass as shown in Figure 1:



Note:

Do NOT have transitions in every sentence of the paper; only include them where they make sense. Transitions are landmarks; if there are too many, then it'll be hard for readers to figure out where the paper is going.

Figure 1. Transition Compass. The figure represents the five main transition groups similar to a compass and its directions.

Transitions that belong to respective categories are in red.

1. **New Idea:** These imply that the paper is going in a new direction.
 - Is this the first idea of the paper (after the intro)?
 - “**One of the ways** that Chopin shows Edna’s development is by describing her new pastimes.”
 - Are we looking at a topic from a different perspective?
 - “**Although having fits may seem childish**, Edna’s interactions with her peers demonstrate her reluctance to obey the domestic sphere.”
 - Are you using a counterargument to make your position stronger?
 - “**Designing a statically indeterminate bridge might seem unnecessary, but if one of the required supports is damaged**, then the extras will help prevent collapse.”

2. **Emphasis/Examples:** These should be used to introduce evidence or help explain its significance.

- Is there an example supporting your claim?
 - “**For instance**, the little prince surprises the pilot by saying the art shows an elephant being swallowed by a snake.”
- Why is this evidence important? (So what?)
 - “**Whenever the pilot shows the drawing to his peers**, they can’t figure out what it’s supposed to be. The little prince is the first person to recognize the drawing for what it is.”

3. **When and Where:** These give the reader an idea where a certain event takes place in the paper.

- When does this event/piece of evidence happen?
 - “**At the beginning of the story**, the Creature educates himself with Milton’s works, believing that people would overlook his horrid appearance for his mind.”
- Where does this piece of information happen in relation to others, the paper itself?
 - “The vehicles and cargo’s weights caused compression when they travelled across the bridge, **as illustrated** in Figure 2.b.”

4. **Similar Perspective/Summary:** These give the reader an idea similar to the previous one in the paper.

- Is this idea similar to the previous one?
 - “While the foundation was a critical factor in the Peace River Bridge’s collapse, **so was** the engineers and local authorities’ bridge maintenance.
- What does this perspective say about the paper’s topic as a whole? (Big Picture)
 - “**As a result**, William Seward’s purchase of Alaska vastly improved the United States’ economic opportunities.”

5. **Conjunctions:** These link words and phrases to ideas or pieces of evidence in the paper.

- Are these ideas similar to each other?
 - “The bridge’s collapse was due to poorly fitted parts **and** lack of internal supports.”
- Are these ideas different from each other (contradiction, counterargument)?
 - “Engineers should apply their knowledge about mechanics, materials, and technologies **instead of** trying to appease those who only see the surface of the situation.”
- Why is this evidence relevant to the current argument/overall paper?
 - “**Therefore**, people should care about their mental and physical health equally.”