10th /10th Honors World Literature

Work with Transitions

Transitions are words, phrases or sentences that join two body paragraphs together. Typically, there is no need for transitions between the introduction and the first body paragraph. Additionally, there is not a transition between the last body paragraph and the conclusion; in other words, the conclusion paragraph does not begin with a transition. As you can see in this paragraph, transitions also occur in the middle of paragraphs when trying to connect similar thoughts or pieces of information within the same paragraph.

At this point in your academic career, you should be writing sentence transitions, not just words like “additionally” or “likewise.” Remember this paragraph from our discussion about adding literary pieces:

Claim: In order for a large society of diverse peoples to live harmoniously without giving up their “person”, immigrant people ought not to assimilate under these strict principles.

Many Americans believe that in order to enculturate into American society, our native language of English must be spoken, but this can be problematic. Native speakers learning English who are school-aged get the added advantage of being immersed in the language of English, and in some areas, great care is given to the English Language Learner. However, Perry reports that what we believe to be these advantages are not really benefits. Students from other countries have at first a very positive attitude about a new language, however bit of a struggle this is from their native language. But “among Latino students born in the United States, the opposite is often the case. Despite fluency in English and familiarity with American schools, many such students are prone to adopt an adversarial stance toward school and a cynical anti-achievement ethic” (Perry). **Additionally, Lorraine Hansberry compounds the idea of language development and the difficulty many face when she writes a conversation between two of her characters in the 1958 play, *A Raisin in the Sun*. Beneatha, the daughter of the Younger family, a family of poor means whose matriarch has come into some money, has a discussion with a Nigerian student at her college. This Nigerian student, Asagai, relates that he has created a nickname for Benetha: “Alaiyo.” Beneatha exclaims, “You didn’t tell us what Alaiyo means…for all I know, you might be calling me Little Idiot or something…” to which Asagai replies, “Well…let me see…I do not know how just to explain it…The sense of a thing can be so different when it changes languages” (I, ii, 70). Asagai relates how nonnative English speakers must feel when they do not have an adequate vocabulary and feeling the frustration of each party trying to communicate.** Not learning and speaking English in the US would not be in anyone’s best interest. However, when discussing assimilation, one should note that with the advantages of understanding and using English are profound, it has some disadvantages as well.

The next paragraph, according to the organization in the introduction, is to discuss a strong work ethic.

You must connect the first body paragraph-speaking English-with the second about work ethic. It could be written like this:

*While consideration must be taken about the value of learning English and expressing oneself in a language that may not be truly functional, we must also pay attention to the American narrative of the “hard worker,” and where that might have been instilled in a person trying to assimilate.*

In the sentence above, underline the part of the sentence that includes the first body paragraph with one line, underline the part of the sentence that includes the second body paragraph with two lines, and circle the words that transition them.

Your turn: write a last sentence of your first body paragraph (if you have not already): take this from your sentence outline. Indent and write a transition sentence that is the topic sentence of the next body paragraph. Be ready to share.

Your research paper should transition this way:

1. Introduction
2. Body paragraph 1
3. Sentence transition as topic sentence to body paragraph 2
4. Word transition (additionally, likewise) to begin topic sentence to body paragraph 3
5. Sentence transition as topic sentence to body paragraph 4
6. Sentence transition as topic sentence to counterclaim
7. Conclusion

\*You might have more body paragraphs than just three before the counterclaim; balance sentence transitions and word transitions.

Transitional Words:

**Combinations  
Lists–**Connecting numerous events. **Part/Whole–**Connecting numerous elements that make up something bigger.

additionally besides furthermore  
again even more in addition  
also finally last, lastly  
and, or, not first, firstly moreover  
as a result further