

Sometimes it is difficult to begin a sentence to convey thoughts or connect ideas. Here are some options for starting sentences and using transitional words to help express your ideas effectively.

### To introduce

This essay discusses ...	... is explored ...	... is defined ...
The definition of ... will be given	... is briefly outlined ...	... is explored ...
The issue focused on ....	... is demonstrated ...	... is included ...
In this essay .....	... is explained ...	... are identified ...
The key aspect discussed ...	... are presented ...	... is justified ...
Views on .... range from ....	... is evaluated ...	... is examined ...
The central theme ...	... is described ...	... is analysed ...
Emphasised are ...	... is explained and illustrated with examples ...	

### To conclude

In summary, ...	To review, ...	In conclusion, ...
In brief, ...	To summarise, ...	To sum up, ...
To conclude, ...	Thus, ...	Hence, ...
It has been shown that, ...	In short, ...	

### To compare and contrast

Similarly, ...	In the same way ...	Likewise, ...
In comparison ...	Complementary to this ...	Then again, ...
However, ...	This is in contrast to ...	In contrast, ...
And yet ...	Nevertheless, ...	Conversely, ...
On the contrary, ...	On the other hand, ...	Notwithstanding ...
Whereas ...	In contrast to ...	That aside, ...
While this is the case ...	... disputes ...	Despite this, ...

### To give examples

For example, ...	... as can be seen in ...	... supports ...
For instance, ...	... as demonstrated by ...	... is observed ...
Specifically, ...	... is shown ...	... exemplifies ...
Such as ...	As an example ...	To illustrate, ...

**To add ideas**

Also, ...	Equally important ...	Subsequently, ...
Futhermore, ...	Moreover, ...	As well as ...
Next...	Another essential point...	Additionally, ...
More importantly, ...	In the same way ...	Another ...
Then, ...	In addition, ...	Besides, ...
Then again, ...	Firstly, ... secondly, ... thirdly, ... finally, ...	To elaborate, ...

**To show relationships or outcome**

Therefore ...	As a result ...	For that reason ...
Hence, ...	Otherwise, ...	Consequently, ...
The evidence suggests/shows ...	It can be seen that ...	With regard to ...
After examining ...	These factors contribute to ...	It is apparent that ...
Considering ... it can be concluded that ...	Subsequently, ...	The effect is ...
The outcome is ...	The result ...	The correlation ...
The relationship ...	The link ...	The convergence ...
The connection ...	... interacts with ...	Both ...
... affects ...	Thus it is ...	... causes ...
... influences ...	... predicts ...	... leads to ...
... informs ...	... presupposes	... emphasises
... demonstrates ...	... impacts on ...	... supports ...

**To present uncommon ideas**

Seldom ...	Few ...	Not many ...
A few ...	... is uncommon	... is scarce ...
Rarely ...	... is rare ...	... is unusual ...

**To present common ideas**

Numerous ...	Many ...	More than ...
Several ...	Almost all ...	The majority ...
Most ...	Commonly ...	Significant ...
... is prevalent ...	... is usual ...	Usually ...

**To present inconclusive ideas**

Perhaps ...	... may be ...	... might be ...
There is limited evidence for ...	... is debated ...	... is possibly ...
... could ...	... may include ...	

**To present prior or background ideas**

In the past, ...	Historically, ...	Traditionally, ...
Customarily, ...	Beforehand, ...	Originally, ...
Prior to this, ...	Earlier, ...	Formerly, ...
Previously, ...	Over time, ...	At the time of ...
Conventionally, ...	Foundational to this is ...	In earlier ...
Initially, ...	At first, ...	Recently ...
Until now, ...	The traditional interpretation ...	

**To present other peoples' ideas**

According to ...	Based on the findings of ... it can be argued...	... proposed that ...
As explained by ...	... states that ...	... claims that ...
However, ... stated that ...	... suggested ...	... concluded that ...
Similarly, ... stated that ...	... for example, ...	... agreed that ...
Based on the ideas of ...	... defined ... as ...	... relates ...
As identified by ...	... disputed that ...	... contrasts ...
With regard to ... argued that ...	... concluded that ...	... confirmed that ...
... argues ...	... highlights ...	... demonstrates ...
... found that ...	... identifies ...	... wrote that ...
... demonstrated ...	... also ...	... reported ...
... pointed out that ...	... maintained that ...	... hypothesised that ...
... expressed the opinion that ...	... also mentioned ...	... asserts that ...
... identified ...	... goes on to state/suggest/say	... emphasises
... challenges the idea ...	... showed that ...	... explored the idea ...

**To put forward personal opinion**

In my opinion / view, ...	To my mind, ...	To my way of thinking, ...
I am convinced that ...	It strikes me that ...	It is my firm belief that ...
I am inclined to believe that ...	It seems to me that ...	As far as I am concerned, ....

**To keep the 'I' out of academic writing**

It can be argued...	Arguably...	It may be that...
This assignment will present the following point of view...	Some theorists, notably Smith (1990) and French (1992) have argued...	There are two sides to this question. Firstly ...
Another point of view suggests however, that ...	This assignment will attempt to show that...	In conclusion, it can be argued that...
It can be seen that...	One point of view is that ...	However ...