

## *Making Connections Within Paragraphs*

Transitional expressions emphasize the relationships between ideas, so they help readers follow your train of thought or see connections that they might otherwise miss or misunderstand. The following paragraph shows how carefully chosen transitions (underlined) lead the reader smoothly from the introduction to the conclusion of the paragraph.

**I don't wish to deny that the flattened, minuscule head of the large-bodied Stegosaurus houses a little brain, but I do wish to argue that the Stegosaurus is not necessarily stupid. First of all, large animals have relatively smaller brains than related, small animals. The correlation of brain size with body size among kindred animals (all reptiles, all mammals, for example) is remarkably regular. As we move from small to large animals, from mice to elephants or small lizards to Komodo dragons, brain size increases, but not as fast as body size. In other words, bodies grow faster than brains, and larger animals have low ratios of brain weight to body weight. In fact, brains grow only about two-thirds as fast as bodies. Since we have no reason to believe that large animals are consistently stupider than their smaller relatives, we must conclude that large animals require less brain to do as well as smaller animals. **If we do not recognize this relationship, we are likely to underestimate the mental power of very large animals, dinosaurs in particular.****

—Stephen Jay Gould, “Were Dinosaurs Dumb?”

### **Some Useful Transitions**

(Modified from Diana Hacker, *A Writer's Reference*, 3<sup>rd</sup>. ed.)

**To show addition:** again, and, also, besides, equally important, first (second, etc.), further, furthermore, in addition, in the first place, moreover, next too

**To give examples:** for example, for instance, in fact, specifically, that is, to illustrate

**To compare/contrast:** although, and yet, at the same time, but, despite, even though, however, in contrast, in spite of, nevertheless, on the contrary, on the other hand, still, though, yet

**To summarize/conclude:** all in all, in conclusion, in other words, in short, in summary, on the whole, that is, therefore, to sum up

**To show time:** after, afterward, as long as, as soon as, at last, before, during, earlier, finally, formerly, immediately, later, meanwhile, next, since, shortly, subsequently, then, thereafter, until, when, while

**To show place or direction:** above, below, beyond, close, elsewhere, farther on, here, nearby, opposite, to the left (north, etc.)

**To indicate logical relationships:** accordingly, as a result, because, consequently, for this reason, hence, if, otherwise, since, so, then, therefore, thus