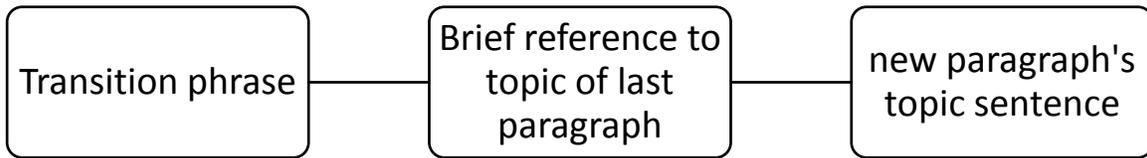


Developing Strong Transitions Between Body Paragraphs

The Formula:



Let's say I'm writing an informative essay about all the animals my friend Jo has. In each body paragraph, I'm telling you details about specific types of animals she has, such as their names, when she got them, their personalities, etc.

To transition from the first paragraph about her dogs to the second paragraph about her cats, **I have to first determine the relationship between the two:**

- Am I comparing/contrasting the two? (in contrast to X, Y...)
- Am I adding on an additional point (enumerating)? (in addition to X, Y)
- Am I trying to situate in time? (after X, Y happened)
- Am I trying to show how the previous paragraph caused the results in this paragraph? (As a result of X, Y happened / Due to X, Y happened)
- (There are many types of relationships; these are just some examples!)

Jo's
dogs

Let's transition! →

An enumerative approach: In addition to her two German Shepherds, Jo also has four cats.

A comparison/contrast approach: (While her two German Shepherds require a lot of attention, her four cats are more independent.)

Jo's
cats

Let's transition! →

A time-based approach: Soon after she got all her cats, Jo decided to put a whole pond full of koi fish in her backyard.

A cause-effect approach: Because she wanted to keep her cats entertained, Jo decided to put a whole pond of koi fish in her backyard.

Jo's
fish

Now, even if I cut apart the paragraphs in my essay about Jo's animals, I could hand them off to a total stranger and he would be able to put them back in order again. This is a great way to test the strength of your current transitions; you can literally cut them apart with a pair of scissors and hand them to a friend. See what happens.

Final thoughts: For the first body paragraph, you don't really need a transition except, maybe, "First." For the last paragraph, use a phrase to show that you're ending (In conclusion, in summation, overall, etc.)