Transition Words in Argumentative Writing

The goal of the argumentative, or persuasive, essay is to convince a reader to think or behave in a certain way. The author does this by convincing the reader of the truth and logic of his or her argument. The most effective argumentative writing addresses more than one side of the argument, using one set of facts and reasons to support the side the author agrees with, and a different set of facts and reasons to refute the other side. In order to do this with clarity, certain transitional words and phrases are used in order to move between paragraphs, ideas, and source information. Some typical transition words, and the kinds of transitions that they indicate, are below.

**Illustration:** Thus, for example, for instance, namely, to illustrate, in other words, in particular, specifically, such as.

**Contrast:** On the contrary, contrarily, notwithstanding, but, however, nevertheless, in spite of, in contrast, yet, on one hand, on the other hand, rather, or, nor, conversely, at the same time, while this may be true.

**Addition:** And, in addition to, furthermore, moreover, besides, than, too, also, both-and, another, equally important, first, second, etc., again, further, last, finally, not only-but also, as well as, in the second place, next, likewise, similarly, in fact, as a result, consequently, in the same way, for example, for instance, however, thus, therefore, otherwise.

**Examples:** For example, for instance, to illustrate, thus, in other words, as an illustration, in particular.

**Consequence or Result:** So that, with the result that, thus, consequently, hence, accordingly, for this reason, therefore, so, because, since, due to, as a result, in other words, then.

**Summary:** Therefore, finally, consequently, thus, in short, in conclusion, in brief, as a result, accordingly.

**Suggestion:** For this purpose, to this end, with this in mind, with this purpose in mind, therefore.
DIRECTIONS: Read each sentence. Then choose the sentence that makes sense to follow it.

1. Vegetarians have a lower instance of heart disease than meat eaters.
   A. Furthermore, studies have shown that becoming vegetarian can even reverse heart disease.
   B. On the other hand, studies have shown that becoming vegetarian can even reverse heart disease.
   C. Therefore, studies have shown that becoming vegetarian can even reverse heart disease.
   D. For instance, studies have shown that becoming vegetarian can even reverse heart disease.

2. The health benefits of vegetarianism are undisputed.
   A. In addition, vegetarian diets are naturally lower in saturated fat, and cholesterol, and higher in plant nutrients.
   B. Hence, vegetarian diets are naturally lower in saturated fat, and cholesterol, and higher in plant nutrients.
   C. As an illustration, vegetarian diets are naturally lower in saturated fat, and cholesterol, and higher in plant nutrients.
   D. To this end, vegetarian diets are naturally lower in saturated fat, and cholesterol, and higher in plant nutrients.

3. There are many ethical reasons for not eating meat.
   A. Besides, livestock generate more greenhouse gases than all the cars and trucks in the world combined.
   B. Moreover, livestock generate more greenhouse gases than all the cars and trucks in the world combined.
   C. On the contrary, livestock generate more greenhouse gases than all the cars and trucks in the world combined.
   D. For instance, livestock generate more greenhouse gases than all the cars and trucks in the world combined.

4. Vegetarians are healthier than meat eaters, and rather than being part of the problems of global warming and animal cruelty, they are part of the solution.
   A. Consequently, consider skipping the meat at your next meal.
   B. With this in mind, consider skipping the meat at your next meal.
   C. Namely, consider skipping the meat at your next meal.
   D. Notwithstanding, consider skipping the meat at your next meal.