Using Transition Words

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.

**DIRECTIONS:** Use the words provided to fill in the correct transition words in the essay.

Pets are a big responsibility, and they can require a lot of time, attention and work. Pets can also be an expense; not only to acquire, but maintain in good health. And we will almost invariably outlive our pets; some people are so afraid of the sadness of losing a pet that they pass on the joy of having one in the first place. ____ these things, though, pets can have a profoundly positive affect on our lives, ____ it is my opinion that the benefits of living with a companion animal far outweigh the supposed drawbacks.

Living with a companion animal can do a lot to reduce stress. ____ playing with or petting an animal increases levels of the stress-reducing hormone oxytocin and decreases production of the stress hormone cortisol. These hormonal changes can help reduce anxiety. ____ stress reduction benefits physical health. A study in 2001 found that patients with high blood pressure who owned pets maintained a lower blood pressure during times of mental stress than patients without pets. ____ studies have shown that the constant companionship of another being that loves you boosts your immune system, improves heart health, reduces physical pain, and improves mental health.

____ are pets good for your body, they are ____ good for your mind and spirits. Pets are entertaining. Every creature is a unique individual with habits, quirks, and personalities. A pet’s antics can distract you from your problems and lift your overall mood. ____ being responsible for another human being makes you more responsible in general. ____ a pet depends on its owner for its survival, good health and happiness, ____ being responsible for another being in this way can help us to develop compassion.

____, having something to focus on besides ourselves and whatever may be bothering us helps to keep us positive, active and healthy too.

in spite of not only also and

and for example and further

in brief furthermore similarly