# **Transition Placemat:** devices used by proficient writers to show the relationships among facts and ideas

# **Alternative**

Either…or…

Instead,

Rather than

Alternatively,

Otherwise,

# **Assumption**

Needless to say,

It goes without saying that

Assuming,

Of course,

Obviously,

# **Cause**

Because

Thanks to

Since

For

# **Comparison**

Similarly,

Just as X, so, too, does Y…

In the same way,

Likewise,

By contrast,

Unlike X, Y….

On the one hand…

On the other hand…

# **Contingency**

If

Assuming

On the condition that…

Unless

Until

# **Overcoming** **Contingency**

Even

Even so,

Regardless

Nonetheless,

Despite

Even though

# **Concluding**

All things considered,

To review,

In closing,

To sum up,

# **Concession**/**Exception**

Of course,

I acknowledge

Admittedly,

To be sure,

There is no denying

In saying this, I do not mean to suggest…

# **Contradiction**

But

However,

And yet

That being said,

At the same time,

On the contrary:

Actually,

*(Short, one-sentence* *paragraphs to mark turning point, as in:*

“Fat chance.”

*“You would be wrong.”*

“Nothing could be further than the truth.”)

# **Telegraphing** **Contradiction**

Supposedly,

Conventional wisdom tells us that

To hear so-and-so tell of it, you’d think

Many people believe that

# **Equivalence**

*Synonyms,*

*Appositive constructions*

Pronouns

That is,

In other words,

To put the matter simply,

Simply put,

# **Example**

For instance,

For example,

To illustrate,

Let me name a few.

In one case,

Witness the

I think of the time when…

Instances are numerous.

# **Expert** **Testimony**

# According to so-and-so,

Listen to So-and-so:

In the words of So-and-so,

Anyone who doesn’t believe this should ask So and So, who…

# **Emphasis**

In fact,

Indeed,

More importantly,

Especially,

Particularly

In particular,

Above all,

# **Limiting**

In general,

At least in the case of

Among other things,

Where X is concerned,

# **List**

To begin with,

For openers,

Besides that,

Too,

Also,

In addition,

Further,

Moreover,

As if this were not enough,

# **Logical** **Extension**

With this in mind,

Accordingly,

In light of

Therefore,

Thus,

Consequently,

It follows that

As a result,

Predictably,

# **Place**

Here,

At

Near

Across from

Within (specific distance) of

# **Purpose**

In order to

So that

# **Speculation**

For all we know,

Possibly,

Perhaps

We cannot rule out

It may be that

# **Time**

Then,

Eventually,

Gradually,

Slowly,

As time passed,

While

Meanwhile,

Suddenly,

Overnight

Since

No sooner did…than