

Essential Transitional Phrases for Formal Writing

above all	instead
accordingly	likewise
additionally	meanwhile
again	moreover
also	nevertheless
as a result	next
at last	nonetheless
at the outset	on one hand
besides	on the contrary
consequently	on the other hand
conversely	otherwise
equally important	overall
eventually	plus
finally	regardless
first	second
for example	similarly
for instance	specifically
furthermore	still
hence	subsequently
however	then
in addition	therefore
in fact	thus
in particular	to begin with
in short	yet
indeed	

Notes:

- Some phrases, like *on one hand* and *on the other hand*, go hand-in-hand. Having on one hand without following it up with on the other hand would be really awkward. (However, you can probably get by with the latter phrase alone.)
- Some of these phrases are obviously more formal than others. Particularly, a *furthermore* carries much more weight than a *plus*. Use your intuition to balance everything out: don't be too stuffy or too relaxed.
- Many transitional phrases are more or less interchangeable. For example, I could've started this sentence with *for instance*, and I would've been fine. Keep this in mind while you're editing. It's usually a good idea to vary your diction as a means of avoiding repetition. In other words, don't use the same words over and over again!

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