

# “SIGNPOST” WORDS AND “PHRASES”



**B-TIC**

PROFESSIONALISM SIMPLIFIED

## 1. “Signpost” words and “Phrases”

SIGNPOSTING WORDS give flow to writing by showing:

1. How points relate to one another and
2. When the reasoning is turning

## 2. Introductory Phrases when using other’s information

Use introductory phrases to tell the reader what the author you are referencing thinks or does in their text. Consider using the following after you have given the author’s name (and the year or notation).

Toney (2023) suggested....

George (2024) explains.....

The author claims.....

The author insisted .....

The author argued.....

The author confronted .....

### To introduce a sequence of points in arguments or listing

Firstly, secondly etc | To begin with

Initially | Then | Next | Subsequently

Finally | Lastly | Another

To begin with, this essay will identify the causes of this situation

These factors will subsequently be analysed in detail

### To add an idea, or more detail

In addition | Additionally | Furthermore  
 Moreover | Again | and  
 Also | Similarly | Besides  
 What is more | Equally | Indeed  
 Apart from this  
 The issue is, furthermore, complicated by external matters.  
 Indeed, scholars reject this theory as unrealistic.

### To give an example

For example | For instance | To demonstrate  
 As an illustration | To illustrate | In this case | Namely |  
 Certain research methods, for instance, surveys and questionnaires, are particularly effective.  
 As an example, the following quotation could be cited as representative of this viewpoint.

### To focus on specifics in more detail

In particular  
 Specifically  
 Such examples, and in particular those from the last five years,  
 Support the findings of recent research.

### Similarity

Equally | In the same way | Likewise | Similarly | Correspondingly | Like | Just as | Similar to | Compare, compared to or with.

### To generalize

As a rule | For the most part | Generally  
 In general | On the whole | In most case | For the most part  
 Usually | Typically  
 In general, it is true to say that a good understanding of theory is essential.  
 The conclusions are, for the most part, sound.

### Concession

However | nevertheless | notwithstanding | while | whereas | although yet | in spite of | despite  
 Even if | though | on the other hand | at the same time

### To introduce a comparison or further point to support your argument

By the same token | Compared with  
 In like manner | In comparison with  
 In the same way | Likewise  
 Similarly | Whereas  
 Compared with the first example, the second seems unconvincing.  
 This scholar's argument is likewise flawed.

### To introduce a contrast or alternative point or section

In comparison | While | Whereas | Instead  
 In contrast | However | Although  
 Nevertheless | Nonetheless | On the other hand  
 But | Yet | Alternatively  
 Conversely | By contrast | On the contrary  
 Nevertheless, arguments in favour of the theory must also be considered.  
 The case must not, however, be overstated.

### To introduce a fact or state the obvious

After all | Clearly | naturally  
 Evidently | Obviously | Of course  
 It is evident that  
 These claims must, of course, be closely examined.  
 Clearly, popular opinion is against the changes

### To rephrase or explain

In other words | Or rather | That is to say  
 To put it more simply | in another way  
 Namely | To be more precise  
 There is only one negative example, namely, that of the government.  
 The model is not universal.  
 To be more precise, it is not applicable in seven percent of the above cases.

### To introduce a reason, result, proof or logical conclusion

Accordingly | As a consequence | As a result  
 Consequently | Hence | Therefore  
 Thus | For this reason | Because  
 Due to | Indeed | In fact  
 It could be concluded that  
 The data are incomplete and, as a consequence, this interpretation is not convincing.  
 Due to problems of access, research on this topic is scarce.

### Giving reasons

because| because of  
 due to| for this reason  
 therefore (can also suggest a result, or –more implicitly – a conclusion)  
 this shows (following on from an example)

### Building on the last section

Having established that  
 if so  
 in order to  
 in that/this case  
 in this connection  
 moreover  
 so  
 then  
 which implies

## To conclude

In conclusion | To sum up Finally

In short | To conclude

As this essay has demonstrated

In conclusion, it has been demonstrated that the hypothesis is generally supported by the evidence.



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