

## Chapter Eight: “As A Result” *Connecting the Parts*

*They Say/I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*

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**Connect your sentences:** Establish clear relations between one statement and the next by connecting those statements

**Strategies for making connections:**

- 1) Using transition terms (like “therefore” and “as a result”)
- 2) Adding pointing words (like “this” or “such”)
- 3) Developing a set of key terms and phrases for each text you write
- 4) Repeating yourself, but with a difference – a move that involved repeating what you’ve said, but with enough variation to avoid being redundant

### (1) Use Transitions

Transition terms help you mark the connection you make as you cross from one point to another in your text. The following is a list of commonly used transitions, categorized according to their different functions:

#### ADDITION

also	indeed
and	in fact
besides	moreover
furthermore	so too
in addition	

#### ELABORATION

actually	to put it another way
by extension	to put it bluntly
in other words	to put it succinctly
in short	ultimately
that is	

#### EXAMPLE

after all	for instance
as an illustration	specifically
consider	to take a case in point
for example	

#### CAUSE AND EFFECT

accordingly	so
as a result	then
consequently	therefore
hence	thus
since	

#### COMPARISON

along the same lines	likewise
in the same way	similarly

#### CONTRAST

although	nevertheless
but	nonetheless
by contrast	on the contrary
conversely	on the other hand

despite	regardless
even though	whereas
however	while yet
in contrast	

#### CONCESSION

admittedly	naturally
although it is true	of course
granted	to be sure

#### CONCLUSION

as a result	in sum
consequently	therefore
hence	thus
in conclusion	to sum up
in short	to summarize

### (2) Pointing Words

These words point or refer backward to some concept in the previous sentence, allowing the writer to create a better sense of flow as he or she pulls his or her argument along.

The most common of these pointing words include:

this	those
these	there
that	such

and simple pronouns like:

his	she
he	it
her	their

Note: Avoid “free-floating pointers,” or pointers that don’t refer to a clearly defined object, by:

- 1) Making sure that there is one and only one possible object in the vicinity that the pointer could be referring to
- 2) Name the object the pointer is referring to at the same time you point to it (for example: instead of simply using “this,” use “this ambivalence toward democratic societies”)

### (3) Repeat Key Terms and Phrases

Develop a constellation of key terms and phrases, including their synonyms and antonyms, that you repeat throughout your text. Key terms should be items that readers could extract from your text in order to get a solid sense of your topic.

Note: Playing with key terms also can be a good way to come up with a title and appropriate section headings or your text.

### (4) Repeat Yourself – But With A Difference

This basically means saying the same thing you have just said, but in a slightly different way that avoids sounding monotonous.

Key terms, pointing terms, and even many transitions can be used in a way that not only brings something forward from the previous sentence but in some at alters it.

In addition, when you use transition phrases like “in other words” and “to put it another way,” you repeat yourself with a difference, since these phrases help you restate earlier claims but in a different register.