
VISUAL THESAURUS LESSON PLANS **STUDENT WORKBOOK**



LESSON 3:

MAKING AN ARGUMENT: EFFECTIVE USE OF TRANSITION WORDS**OBJECTIVE:**

When you are trying to persuade someone, you often have to list out the reasons why you have a certain opinion. In persuasive writing, you do that same thing, but you use “transition” or connecting words to clearly lay out your argument. Your writing can be made more interesting, and more persuasive, by choosing effective transition words to make your case.

In this lesson, first, you will write a persuasive essay using different types of transition words. Then you will revise and compare an editorial piece (a type of persuasive essay) based on the use of transition words.



PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Transition words (also called “connecting” words) are important words that signal the relationship between one word, phrase, or sentence and the next word, phrase, or sentence. There are several main classes of transition words:



Chronological (words about the order of things)

First, second, third
Next, then
After
Following

Cause-Effect (words about things which make other things happen)

So, thus
Therefore, hence
Consequently
Due to

Example (words to show what a thing is)

One such, another
For instance, for example

Addition (words that add more information)

Similarly, additionally
Another
Also
Moreover

Opposition (words that signal a conflict or problem)

But, though, however
On the other hand
Conversely
Yet
Nonetheless, nevertheless

- ❶ Turn off the Noun and Verb parts of speech. →
- ❷ Choose one transition word from each category. Type each into the VT Enter A Word box.
- ❸ Explore the various links you see. For each word, write down an additional two transition words.



Meanings List

Chronological:

.....

Cause-Effect:

.....

Addition:

.....

Opposition:

.....

- 4 Write a short opinion “essay” using as many of the transition words as you can. For each essay, come up with at least three reasons to persuade the reader. Make up your own question or use one of the following prompts:

- 1) Who is the best singer/writer/dancer/performer/athlete?
- 2) What is the best sport for losing weight?
- 3) What is the best cartoon on television?
- 4) Which is better, chocolate or vanilla?
- 5) What is the best kind of music?
- 6) Who is the greatest person to have ever lived?
- 7) Which kind of animal makes the best pet?
- 8) Which is more beautiful, sunrise or sunset?
- 9) Which is more important, the ability to speak well or write well?
- 10) Is it better to be an only child or to have brothers and/or sisters?

[illegible]

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

PART 2: NEXT STEPS

- ① Find an editorial from your local newspaper or from the New York Times on line [<http://www.nytimes.com>].
Read the essay.
- ② Underline the transition words. Think about which category each transition word would fit into (chronological, cause-effect, etc.)
- ③ Now, take the transition words OUT of the essay (you can use a pen to cross them out or cover them with small pieces of tape or post-it notes).
- ④ Read the essay again. What happens when the transition words are taken out? Does the essay sound funny or bad? Why do you think this is the case?



.....

.....

.....

.....

- ⑤ Put the transition words into the VT and list at least one alternative for each.

Transition Words:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Replacements:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

- 6 Plug the new transition words into the essay. How does it sound now?

PART 3: CHALLENGE

- 1** Re-read your persuasive essay from Part 1. Did you write the essay with a particular audience or person in mind? Would the language and transition words you used be appropriate to present an argument in a formal debate or in front of the class? What if you were just talking to your friends—would you use different words or language? Overall, does your essay use formal or informal language? Think about why you chose that tone for the essay. Write down your answers and other thoughts about the tone of the essay. Could the tone be changed with different transition words?

Thoughts and ideas about tone of original essay

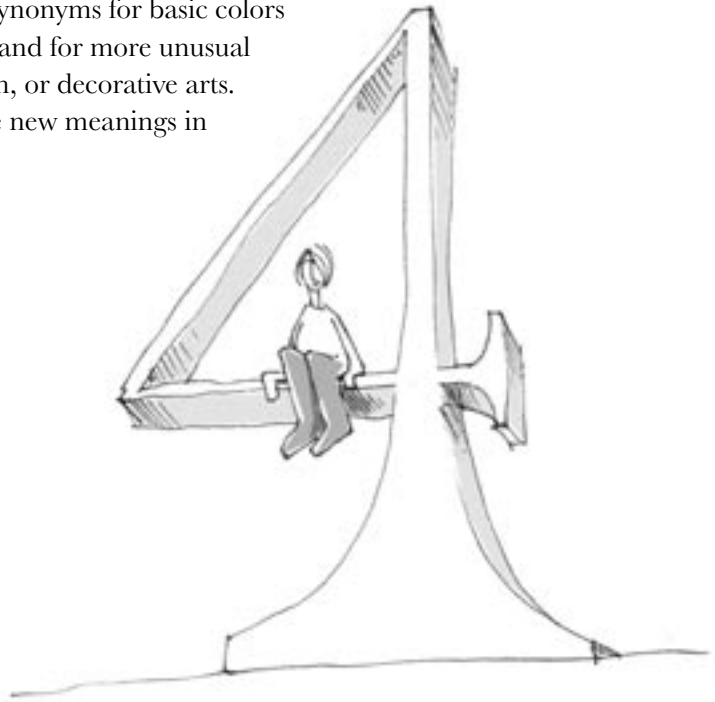
A cartoon character with a large, round head and a small body, wearing a helmet and a patterned shirt, holding a sign that says "CHALLENGE!!". The character is standing on the right side of the page, and the sign is held up to the right. The background is white with horizontal dotted lines.

LESSON 4:

EXPLORING COLOR VOCABULARY: SHADE, METAPHOR AND WIDER LITERARY AND CULTURAL MEANINGS**OBJECTIVE:**

Color words and metaphors are used to express many things. In addition to describing the color itself and its related shades, color words are often used to express feelings and images that are only partly related to color. Color words can also take on social and cultural meanings if they are used to describe a person's appearance, emotions, or actions. A broader understanding of basic color words can improve your descriptive writing, as well as deepen your understanding of literary and cultural references to color.

In this lesson, you will explore synonyms for basic colors (primary, secondary, and tones) and for more unusual color words found in art, fashion, or decorative arts. Then you will incorporate these new meanings in a creative writing piece.



PART 3: CHALLENGE

- 1** Write a scientific-style report, a creative story or a poem related to your plant or animal. If you only use the Visual Thesaurus as a resource, which style of writing will be easiest to complete? Why do you think so?

A cartoon character with a large head, wearing a helmet-like cap with a single dark stripe, and a patterned t-shirt. The character is holding a rectangular sign on a stick that says "CHALLENGE!!" in capital letters. The character is positioned in the bottom right corner of the page.