

# Developing Fluency

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## VOCABULARY

### Thesis

*The sentence that expresses the main idea of your entire paper. Usually the last sentence in the introductory paragraph.*

### Topic Sentence

*The sentence that expresses the main ideas of the paragraph.*

### Transition

*A word or phrase that establishes connections between or within sentences or paragraphs. Most handbooks offer a helpful list of transitions. Here are some examples: therefore, in addition, for instance, likewise, however, next, consequently, to sum up.*

## THE RULE

Use transitions and vary your sentence structures to develop fluency between sentences and paragraphs and to signal your reader about what ideas are related to, different from, or extensions of each other. In addition, be sure each paragraph relates back to your paper's thesis and each sentence relates to its particular paragraph's topic sentence.

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## REMEMBER *Establishing Fluency between Thesis and Topic Sentences (Global Concern)*

- *Highlight your Thesis*
- *Highlight every topic sentence in every paragraph*
- *Look at the order of points in your thesis. Does your paper follow that order?*
- *Look at each topic sentence. Explain to your tutor how it relates to the thesis. Now revise the wording so that it matches your explanation.*
- *Look again at each topic sentence. What transitions could you add to it to make it flow more clearly from the thesis and/or from the paragraph preceding it?*

## PRACTICE *Eliminating Choppiness (Sentence-level Concern)*

**Error:** Many college students miss their early morning classes. They stay up too late. They oversleep. They should go to bed earlier.

**Correction:** **As a result** of staying up too late and oversleeping, many college students miss their morning classes. **Therefore**, they should go to bed earlier.