

## Essay Cheat Sheet

### Transitions/Transitional Phrases

- ❖ Transitions are required between body paragraphs. They make your paper flow, and help you move from one topic to the next.
- ❖ A transition is a phrase that begins a new topic or paragraph. Here are some examples of transitions and transitional expressions:

accordingly	furthermore	instead	nevertheless
besides	however	meanwhile	otherwise
consequently	indeed	moreover	therefore
as a result	for instance	in fact	in summary
for example	in addition	that is	in other words
first of all	secondly	although	on the other hand

### Example

“As a result of being treated poorly by her stepsisters, Cinderella loses hope.”

- ❖ A transitional phrase—says “goodbye” to one topic and leads the way to the next topic.

### Example

“Not only was Cinderella treated unfairly by her stepmother, but, she was also treated unfairly by her stepsisters.” (says goodbye to the stepmother topic and hello to the stepsisters topic.)

### Using Quotations in Your Essay

Whenever you include a quotation in your essay, you need to follow a few simple rules. Remember that a quote is anything you take from the text, it does not need to be something a character says.

Give the following information before you add a quote:

- ❖ Who said the quote (even if it is just the narrator)
- ❖ Who or what the quote is about.

After using the quote:

- ❖ Explain how your quote is related to your topic sentence.
- ❖ Make sure your quote is evidence supporting your thesis.

### Example

“In the following quote, Cinderella finds out why she may not go to the ball when her stepmother tells her, “because you did not complete all of the work I gave you, you man not go to the ball” (43).

### Commentary

If you have ever watched sports on television, you have heard commentary. Commentary is an explanation of what is going on. In your essay, your commentary is **your own** explanation of the facts. Therefore, you must include your commentary after your quote or evidence. It helps tie the information into the topic sentence, and it also takes the essay one step further. This is your opportunity to add your own voice to your essay. Be careful! Never use first or second person in your essay. Instead of writing “I think Cinderella was not treated fairly,” you would just write, “Cinderella was not treated fairly.