

Opinion Essays & Transition Signals with Reasons

When you write an essay that asks for your opinion about something, you have to give reasons for your opinion. You also need to use transition signals that introduce the different reasons you have to support / explain your opinion. Each of your body paragraphs should begin with a topic sentence that includes a transition signal.

1. Here are some common transition signals that can come at the beginning of your topic sentences: *first, first of all, second, third, fourth, finally, etc.*

For an essay about technology, you might see the following types of sentences:

1. First, technology makes my life better because there are many uses of medical technology.
2. Second, my life is better because technology makes transportation so easy.
3. Finally, computers are one kind of technology that really make my job easier to do.

2. You can also use a transition signal as the subject of your sentence.

For the same essay about technology, you might see the following types of sentences:

1. The first reason technology makes my life better is (that) there are many uses of medical technology.
2. Another reason my life is better is because technology makes transportation so easy.
3. The last reason my life is better with technology is (that) computers make my job much easier to do.

The important point to remember is that each of your topic sentences should very clearly connect to the prompt. You need to use both a transition signal and information that points back to the prompt to have topic sentences that are very clear and effective.

Read the prompt, introduction, and conclusion below, and then write three topic sentences that could begin each of the three body paragraphs in a 5-paragraph essay about this topic.

Prompt: In your opinion, what are three important rules for a family? Explain why each rule is important. Be sure to give reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Sample Introduction:

It's not always easy to have a happy family. Each family is different and has different ways to stay happy. However, I think each family must have some basic rules that help to keep the family happy. In my opinion, sharing housework, always telling the truth, and always keeping promises are three important rules for a family.

Topic Sentence for Body Paragraph #1: _____

Topic Sentence for Body Paragraph #2: _____

Topic Sentence for Body Paragraph #3: _____

Sample Conclusion:

No one ever said it was easy to have a happy family. It takes a lot of energy and patience to have a happy family, but there are some things you can do to be sure your family is happy. The first thing is to decide which rules are going to be important to keep your family happy. When everyone helps with the chores, is careful to tell only the truth, and keeps her/his promises, the whole family can be happy.