Note: This list is extensive but not comprehensive; other transitions exist. Also, although I’ve divided the list into categories, the words within each category are not fully interchangeable, and none will work in every case. Finally, some transitions here are more formal than others, so use them in a way compatible with the voice you are using.

**To Add Support or Extend the Argument:**

and, additionally, in addition, also, again, and then, besides, equally important, further, furthermore, moreover, too, what’s more (informal), nor (when arguing a negative point)

**To Emphasize:**

certainly, absolutely, positively, naturally, indeed, evidently, furthermore, moreover, in fact, surprisingly, unquestionably, undeniably, doubtless, without a doubt, without reservation, of course, obviously

Note: I recommend using the last two carefully; readers can find them insulting.

**To Compare (which includes contrasting), or Indicate Exception:**

compared to, while, likewise, similarly, in comparison, on the other hand, whereas, next to, but, yet, however (tends to be overused and is the single most common cause of comma splices), on the contrary, in contrast, though, although, occasionally, on occasion, once in a while (informal), sometimes, conversely, admittedly

**To Show Cause and Effect:**

as a result, because, for, since, accordingly, consequently, so, therefore, thus, hence (highly formal, approaching arch)

**To Give an Example:**

for example, for instance, in particular, in one case, specifically, once, thus (but not therefore), on this occasion, in the situation of, take the case of, to demonstrate, to illustrate

**To Reassert after an Exception (Note: this is the situation in which you most need a transition)**

nevertheless, nonetheless, regardless, despite, in spite of, even so, in any case, still

**To Show Time:**

after, afterward, at last, before, currently, during, earlier, immediately, later, meanwhile, now, recently, simultaneously, subsequently, thereafter, soon, previously, formerly

**To Show Sequence:**

first, second, third, (and so forth), next, then, subsequently, finally, ultimately

**To Summarize or Conclude:**

finally, in brief, overall, on the whole, therefore, thus, accordingly, consequently, ultimately, above all, in summary, to sum up (informal), to conclude, in conclusion (these last two at the beginning of your concluding paragraph make your essay sound as if it were written according to a template, so you should avoid using them in that position)