

Writing: Lesson 40
List of Transition Words

Name: _____

Transition Words

First

To begin with
To start off
My number one reason
To kick off
For starters
First and foremost

Second

In addition
Secondly
Furthermore
Another example
Another reason why

Third

Last but not least
Furthermore
The last reason
Lastly
The third reason

Conclusion

To summarize
In any case
In short
All in all
As a review
In a nutshell
To sum it all up
You can see why
As you can see
As I have noted
To wrap it all up

Writing: Lesson 40

Example Essay

Name: _____

Did you know that the largest ever recorded alligator measured 19.2 feet? Alligators are interesting because there are two different species, they are a type of reptile, and they live in various habitats. Alligators aren't as scary once you learn more about them.

To begin with, there are actually two different species of alligators in the world. According to the text Alligators at Risk, the most well-known type of alligator is the American Alligator. The American Alligator lives in the wetlands of the Southern United States. It was listed under the Endangered Species Act and it was illegal to hunt them. Another type of alligator species is the Chinese Alligator. The author states in Alligators at Risk, that the Chinese Alligator looks very similar to the American Alligator. However, these reptiles are much smaller. There are also far fewer Chinese Alligators than American Alligators because they are listed as critically endangered. Alligators are fascinating animals, and it is important to know the similarities and differences between the two species.

Furthermore, alligators are animals classified as reptiles. Based on the information in Alligators at Risk, alligators fall into the category of reptiles because they are cold blooded. Cold blooded means their environment controls their body temperature and they have scales for protection. When their body temperature is too low they warm up by laying in the sun. Similarly, alligators are classified as reptiles because they lay eggs in nests. Baby alligators are either male or female based on the temperature of the nest that the eggs are in. In the article Alligators at Risk it states that if the nest is above 93 degrees the eggs will be male, and if it is cooler than that the eggs will end up being female. After learning about the characteristics of reptiles, I can understand why alligators are classified this way.

Last but not least, alligators are adapted to live in various habitats. In paragraph one of Habitats it says that you can find alligators in fresh water habitats like rivers as well as brackish habitats such as swamps. Brackish means the water is saltier than fresh water, but not as salty as seawater. Fresh water and brackish water habitats are the perfect place for alligators to live and lay eggs. Another habitat alligators live in are holes that they create in swamp habitats. According to the text Habitats, the author says they dig these holes by using their body parts such as their feet and tail. Alligator holes are very useful because they help alligators keep cool in the hot weather and also camouflage them from their prey so that they can capture meals easily. It is important to know where alligators like to live so that we can make sure we protect those areas from destruction.

To wrap it all up, alligators are remarkable because there are two different species, they are a type of reptile, and they live in various habitats. I think everyone should learn more about alligators so they can understand this mysterious creature. Alligators are an important part of our ecosystem.

Practice Essay

How much do you know about climates around the world? There are many factors that make the climate vary from place to place including distance and difference zones. Learning about climates can teach us a lot about a place!

_____, there are many factors that cause the climate to vary in different parts of the world. One of the factors that affect climate is latitude. According to the text, Climates, an Introduction, the closer you are to the equator, the hotter it is during the year. If you enjoy the warm air and sunshine, you should live closer to the equator. This is where you will get hotter temperatures all year long and not have to worry about snow and freezing cold weather. The author states in Climates, and Introduction, “Higher elevations are usually colder than lower elevations.” Altitude is how high a place is above the sea level. Always remember that the higher up you go, the colder it is going to be. These two key factors can help you see what the climate will be like in a particular place.

_____, the distance from various land forms affects climate as well. In the article Climates, an Introduction, the author states that the temperature in oceans and lakes rises and drops a lot faster than land. The air above them is warmed or cooled by those waters. This means that depending on how close you are to water, the temperature may change more quickly. Mountain ranges can also affect climate and how it varies. Based on Climates, an Introduction, “Air cannot pass through mountains.” As the air goes up the side of the mountain, it cools and falls as rain. The rain only falls on that side of the mountain and can leave the other side dry as a desert. It is interesting to think that rain can only fall on one side of a mountain. Since air cannot get through the mountains, rising up the side is its only way out! Who knew that mountains would have such an effect on the climate?

_____, there are different climate zones all over the world. For example, there is the tropical climate zone. This zone is warm, sunny, and perfect for rainforests. In paragraph two of Climate Zones, it says that “Some places often experience heavy rainfall, making this zone very wet and humid.” This seems like a perfect mixture of sunlight and rain. There are also desert climate zones. Based on the text Climate Zones, these are very dry and usually receive less than 10 inches of rainfall in an entire year. They can be very cold in the night time and there is very little life there. The cactus is one of the only plants that can live there and store water in its stem. With so little rain and being so dry, it makes sense that there is not much life there. It is hard for anything to survive in that type of climate.

_____, there are many factors that affect our climate which include distance and various zones. I think it is important to be aware of these so we understand the climate in different places. There are many different climates all over the world!

Writing: Lesson 40
Homework Essay

Name: _____

The following passages will be used in this lesson:

Rainforest Ecosystem
Saving the Rainforest

Your class is researching the rainforest. Using the information and examples found in the passage set, write an informative essay on the rainforest.

Reminder: Use your NEW transition words

I _____

T1 _____ a. _____

b. _____

T2 _____ a. _____

b. _____

T3 _____ a. _____

b. _____

C _____

