

Guiding Your Reader

When you write, you take your reader on a journey. Along the way, the reader needs signposts to know which way to mentally travel in order to understand your paper. Some signposts tell the reader the direction of travel, other signposts tell the reader when to turn in a new direction, and other signposts tell the reader when a part of the journey is over. These signposts are important to keep the reader from getting lost or confused while reading your paper.

3 Kinds of Signposts:

- 1) **Topic Sentence** – introduces the main point of the paragraph and states an idea or attitude about the main point (tells the reader what direction the paragraph will take)
 - **Examples:** Smoking cigarettes can be an expensive habit for three reasons.
Metaphor is one literary device used in the novel to describe the protagonist's feelings.
- 2) **Transitions** – help the paper flow more smoothly, used both between sentences and paragraphs to show relationships, can be single words or whole sentences (tells the reader when to turn)
 - **Examples:** First, Second, Finally, In conclusion, However, Furthermore etc.
- 3) **Wrap and Tie Sentence** – completes each body paragraph, (tells when part of journey is over) has two purposes:
 1. Summarizes the paragraph or makes the final point of the paragraph
 2. Relates how the information in the paragraph supports all of part of the thesis statement
 - **Examples:** Through this evidence, one can see that smoking is an expensive habit. The many examples of metaphor throughout the novel express the character's feelings in a creative way.

