

Handout on Varying Sentence Openers to Make Connections

Before writing your next document, read over these example sentence openers so that you get these constructions into your subconscious. That way, when you think about connecting your ideas, these types of connections will be waiting.

Common

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Subject-Verb | Mount St. Helens erupted on May 18, 1980. |
| Prepositional Phrase | In minutes, the mountain emitted a cloud of hot rock and gas. |
| Adverb | However, debate has arisen over the source for the steam. |
| Dependent Clause | Although precursors for the eruption had been studied for months, the timing and power of eruption surprised many scientists. |

Advanced

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Infinitive Phrase | To understand the source for steam in volcanic eruptions, we have to determine how much water the magma contains. |
| Gerundial Phrase | Calculating the amount of ash will require many assumptions. |
| Participial Phrase | Its slope collapsing, the mountain emitted a cloud of hot rock and gas. |

Sophisticated

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dependent Clause as Subject | What actually occurred was a sudden blast that caught scientists by surprise. |
| Verb-Subject | Is it groundwater heated by magma or water originally dissolved in the magma itself? |
| Double Clause | The greater the tumescence, the more likely an eruption. |

Transitional Phrases

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Continuation | Also, | In addition, | Moreover, |
| Pause | In other words, | Put another way, | For example, |
| Reverse | However, | On the other hand, | Conversely, |