

### Transitioning from the Thesis to the Topic Sentence

Instructions: Select a transition and Topic Sentence and write it at the beginning of the correct paragraph.

Transitions	Topic Sentences
In conclusion	The death of a loved one is never easy to overcome.
Firstly	when life gives you lemons make orange juice and have the world wondering "how the hell you did it!"
Furthermore	Transitioning to high school, can be so nerve-wrecking for a teenager.
Finally,	The transformation from child to young adult is one that is not easy to overcome for many.

Challenges of Growing up  
Original essay by students of grade 11

#### The Introduction: Paragraph 1

According to David Foster Wallace, "Everything I've ever let go of has claw marks on it." Almost anyone who's gone through a big life change can relate: Whether you're moving to a new city, leaving for college, or experiencing personal challenges. Growing up is all about learning to leave some things behind in order to embrace the new. **Dealing with an unsettling transition may not be easy, but there are ways to keep your sanity intact and to turn the challenges into opportunities for growth.** (Thesis Statement)

The Middle of the Essay  
Paragraph 2

\_\_\_\_\_Some teenagers endure emotional, physical, sexual and verbal abuse while they are students. Despite the abuse they are experiencing, they are expected to paste on smiles and get good grades. Behind the brightest smile can hide the darkest past. For other teens, they must cope with the stress of

handling their emotions because poor choices could result in negative consequences.

### **The Middle of the Essay Paragraph 3**

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First of all, in junior school, I used to duck class with my friends and sit under the big almond tree. Sometimes we hid ourselves in the bathroom stalls. I rarely if ever did homework. High school was different. The realization hit me that I only had three years to do what I hadn't been doing in grades 7, 8 and 9. I could no longer blame anyone, but myself if I didn't graduate. I could no longer be the little immature child that I once was. I felt like a mature me was slowly developing. This was indeed a significant change in my life.

### **The Middle of the Essay Paragraph 4**

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When I lost my grandmother, I had just entered senior high school. I was overwhelmed with grief. She was a very wise lady who always gave me words of encouragement. Her personality, and overall character continues to shape me into the young person I want to be, although I may not always live up to her expectations. When my grandmother died along with my best friend and favorite guidance counselor, it left me feeling deeply hurt. Fortunately, I had an older person to guide me through. The right people can truly have a positive impact on a teenager's life.

### **The closing Paragraph**

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We may never be perfect, but we're full of worth because we are unique creatures of God that are full of purpose. God's goal is for you to be the best you can be! Share what you do with the world and always be optimistic because diversity is beautiful.