

Creek Connections

Connect paragraphs by meaning, not just by adding signal words.

9.T.SS.1.c "Guide the audience through texts using transitions between ideas and paragraphs to enhance cohesion. (C)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle transitions within paragraphs. Underline the opening sentence of paragraphs 2 and 3, then connect each to the earlier idea it develops. Explain the relationship each link creates, rather than only naming its signal word.

Planning a Mill Creek Cleanup

In this fictional Riverton case, the neighborhood council proposes a cleanup along the public path beside Mill Creek. Volunteers have noticed litter on several walks, but they have not made a systematic count. The council therefore asks for a planning meeting before advertising a cleanup. A useful plan would identify the permitted work area, supervision and a way to record what volunteers find.

That planning meeting would turn a broad concern into specific responsibilities. First, the parks coordinator could confirm which path areas volunteers may use and what work is appropriate. Next, the council could arrange supplies and supervision within those conditions. Meanwhile, a small team could design a simple litter-count record for the approved route. These preparations would help the group organize the event; they would not prove that one cleanup would solve the litter problem.

Because one event cannot establish a lasting result, the plan also needs a follow-up check. For example, volunteers could count litter on the same permitted route before the event and again on a later agreed date, recording when each count occurred. However, different weather or path use could affect the comparison. The council could use the records to decide what to investigate next, rather than claiming that every change was caused by the cleanup.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What earlier idea does “That planning meeting” pick up, and what does the rest of the sentence add?

2 How do “Next” and “Meanwhile” show different relationships in paragraph 2?

3 How does paragraph 3’s opening connect to paragraph 2’s final caution, and what does “However” qualify?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a connected proposal for a school or community improvement. You may use this fictional case: a bike rack is often full, students want more spaces, and the school has not surveyed demand, confirmed a site or approved a purchase. Develop a need, a planning sequence and a follow-up decision in separate paragraphs. Link paragraphs through shared ideas and use transitions within them to express the actual relationships.

1. Map the connections

Plan what each paragraph adds. Name the idea that paragraph 2 will pick up from paragraph 1 and the idea paragraph 3 will develop from paragraph 2.

2. Develop the connected text

Write developed paragraphs with visible breaks. Use links that express sequence, addition, contrast, cause or result only where those meanings fit. There is no fixed sentence quota.

3. Test and revise two links

Explain one connection between paragraphs and one within a paragraph. Revise a vague link or a misleading signal word. Explain how your revision improves the relationship.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle transitions within paragraphs. Underline the opening sentence of paragraphs 2 and 3, then connect each to the earlier idea it develops. Explain the relationship each link creates, rather than only naming its signal word. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What earlier idea does “That planning meeting” pick up, and what does the rest of the sentence add?	It picks up the requested meeting in paragraph 1. It adds the meeting’s purpose: turning the broad litter concern into specific responsibilities, which paragraph 2 then explains.
2	How do “Next” and “Meanwhile” show different relationships in paragraph 2?	Next places arranging supplies and supervision after confirmation of the permitted work. Meanwhile introduces record design as work that can occur alongside the preparations, rather than necessarily after every other task.
3	How does paragraph 3’s opening connect to paragraph 2’s final caution, and what does “However” qualify?	Paragraph 2 cautions that preparations do not prove lasting success. Paragraph 3 develops that limitation into a reason for follow-up. However qualifies the comparison: weather or path use may influence counts, so a change does not by itself establish the cleanup as its cause.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Connection plan

Need: investigate bicycle parking demand. Planning: gather demand and site information. Follow-up: use those findings for a proportionate decision. Paragraph 2 picks up the investigation; paragraph 3 turns the findings into a decision.

Proposal: Investigate Bicycle Parking

In this fictional school case, students report that the bike rack is often full. Additional spaces might help, but the school first needs evidence about demand and a suitable location. We propose an investigation before the principal decides whether to purchase a rack.

That investigation should connect rider needs with site constraints. First, students could count parked bicycles on several mornings and ask riders about unmet needs. Meanwhile, the facilities team could review possible locations and access requirements. Together, these findings would help the school compare options without assuming that the students' preferred site is suitable.

Once the needs and site reviews are complete, the students could present the principal with options and price estimates. If the evidence supports an addition, the principal could consider a purchase; if it reveals a different problem, the plan should change. In either case, the decision would follow the investigation rather than precede it.

Link check and revision

"That investigation" repeats the previous paragraph's central idea and adds its purpose. "Meanwhile" links two information-gathering tasks that can proceed alongside each other. A vague "Next, buy a rack" would assume approval; replacing it with "Once the needs and site reviews are complete" makes the next decision depend on the findings.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Assess cohesion in the student's actual writing: paragraph openings pick up earlier ideas and develop them, and internal transitions fit the intended relationship. The model prints three distinct proposal paragraphs and does not impose two sentences per paragraph. Accept varied accurate links; do not reward a quota of signal words without meaningful connections. All places and events are fictional, and proposals remain conditional.