



Signposting



For longer papers (that have chapters or numbered sections), signposts act like a roadmap for your reader. They preview the content of a section, and clarify or specify how ideas are related.

It's a good idea to use signposts for these types of writing:

- MA Thesis
- Dissertation
- Chapter for an edited volume
- Journal article
- Long research paper (more than 15 pages)

Do not use signposting for short essays, under 10-15 pages.

Introduction-y Signposts

Use these types of signposts near the beginning of your whole manuscript, and also in the beginning of each main sub-section.

Introduction-y Signpost Examples

This	paper essay chapter section	will address three main questions: reviews the literature... is divided into two parts: part one will... Part two will... critically examines... considers... explores... investigates... describes...		
		Then/ Next, this...	seeks to attempts to	investigate... examine... clarify... describe... further our understanding of... argue... evaluate... focus on...
			will (first)	review... consider... outline... discuss... demonstrate... illustrate...

More example combinations:

- This chapter will first... Next it will... Finally, it will...
- This paper begins by... It will then go on to... Finally, ...
- ___ involves the intersection of several complex issues including... This section addresses each of these questions in turn.

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Introduction-y Signpost Examples (with “I” language)

In this	paper essay chapter section	I will (first)	argue... consider... discuss... etc.
		I present... I describe...	
I	will first introduce ___theory, then will... will first consider..., before explaining... present evidence that... begin by introducing..., then...		

Conclusion-y Signposts

You do not necessarily need to use the words “In conclusion” or “In summary.”
Also see the AUSB Writing Center handout: “Conclusion Strategies.”

Conclusion-y Signpost Examples

(In conclusion, In summary,)	This paper This essay This chapter This section	has addressed three main questions:	
		has critically examined...	
		has reviewed the literature...	
		has (/I have)	demonstrated... shown... argued... suggested... proposed... identified... clarified... considered... established... discussed...

More example combinations:

- This chapter has outlined...
- As this paper has demonstrated, ...
- As I have argued in this section, ...

Signposts to use anywhere in your paper, when pointing back or forward



looking
back

As	noted stated briefly discussed mentioned	above, previously, above in section ##,
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looking
forward

...will be	discussed in more detail further discussed returned to taken up again further	below. in section ## below. later on.
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