

Weinstein's Placemat

Devices used by proficient writers to show the relationships among facts and ideas

Adapted from <http://atc.bentley.edu/courses/resources/Lweinstein/35-1.html>

1 Equivalence
That is,
In other words,
To put the matter simply,
Simply put,
(synonyms, appositives)

2 Cause
Because
Thanks to
Since
For

3 Expert Testimony
According to So-and-so,
Listen to So-and-so:
In the words of So-and-so,
Anyone who doesn't believe this should ask So-and-so, who...

4 Contingency
If
Assuming
On the condition that...
Unless
Until

5 Contradiction
At the same time,
On the contrary:
Actually,
But
And yet
However

6 Comparison
Similarly,
Just as X, so, too, does Y
In the same way...
Likewise...
7 Alternative
Either... or...
Instead;
Rather than
Alternatively;
Otherwise;
On one hand...
...on the other hand.

8 Emphasis
More importantly,
In particular,
Particularly,
Especially,
Above all,
Indeed,

9 Assumption
Needless to say,
It goes without saying that
Assuming...
Of course,
Obviously,

10 Example
For instance,
For example,
To illustrate,
Let me name a few
In one case,
Witness the
I think of the time when

11 Time
Then,
Since
Eventually,
Gradually,
Slowly,
As time passed,
While, ^{meanwhile}
Suddenly, ^{overnight}

12 Overcoming Contingency
Even
Even so,
Regardless
Nonetheless,
Despite
Even though
Although

13 List
To begin with,
For openers,
Besides that,
Too, moreover,
Also, further,
In addition,
As if this were not enough,

14 Speculation
For all we know,
Possibly,
Perhaps,
We cannot rule out
It may be that

15 Place
Here, at
Across from Near
Within (specific distance of)

16 Concession / Exception
In saying this, I do not mean
Of course, to be sure, Admittedly,
That is no denying
Of course,

17 Limiting
In general,
At least in the case of
Among other things,
Where X is concerned,

18 Purpose
In order to
So that

19 Telegraphing Contradiction
Many people believe that...
Conventional wisdom tells us that...
To hear So-and-so tell of it, supposedly, you'd think...

20 Concluding {At...}
All things considered,
To review,
In closing,
To sum up,

21 Logical Extension
Accordingly, Thus, It follows that
As a result, Predictably, Consequently,
Accordingly, With this in mind,
Therefore, In light of

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1 = EQUIVALENCE
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Listen to so-and-so:
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5 Contradiction → ←
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On the contrary:
Actually, But
And yet However


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Similarly,
Just as X, so, too, does Y
In the same way...
Likewise...
By contrast
Unlike X, Y...
On one hand... on the other hand...
Indeed,
Above all,
In fact,
Especially,
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7 Alternative Either... or...
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For example,
To illustrate,
Let me name a few.
In one case,
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I think of the time when

11 TIME 
Then, Since
Eventually,
Gradually,
Slowly,
As time passed, Meanwhile,
While, Suddenly, overnight,

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Within (specific distance of)

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of course, to be sure, to suggest...
there is no denying, Admittedly,
if course

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