I Don’t Know How to Say It

Stating your thesis

- Odysseus is not a hero because he is too______, he always __________s, and he _________.
- The play employs three tactics to reveal the prince’s character: ________, _______, and _______.
- The sonnet’s message about ____ is ambiguous; on the one hand it acknowledges ____________, but on the other hand it suggests _____________.
- George Washington’s belief in ________ and his use of _________ enabled him to _____.
- The Industrial Revolution occurred when it did because ______________ and _____________.
- X’s view that _____________ is wrong because_________________.

Acknowledging a counterargument

- To be sure, _______________.
- Of course, one might argue that _______________.
- It is true that ____________; nevertheless, _______________.

Introducing summaries and paraphrases

- X demonstrates that ___________ (422-23).
- X claims that _______________ (453).
- X emphasizes that ______________ (17).

Introducing quotations

- Macbeth says, “_______” (2.1.4).
- The narrator observes, “_______” (46).
- The speaker laments, “_______” (2-3).
- According to Johnson, “________________” (398).
- Cohen argues that “_______” (35).

Explaining quotations

- In other words, X believes ______________.
- In short, X is saying ______________.
- This comment reveals that X feels-thinks ____________.
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Moving from one paragraph or point to the next...

when something is caused by what you said before.

● Accordingly
● Consequently
● Therefore
● Thus
● As a result
● Hence

when something you’re adding follows from or contributes to the point you just made.

● Furthermore
● In addition
● In the same way
● Moreover
● Also
● Likewise
● Similarly

when something contrasts with or is opposite from what you said before.

● On the contrary or On the other hand
● Conversely
● Nevertheless or Nonetheless
● But or Yet
● However

when you need to highlight an emphasis.

● Especially
● Most important
● Indeed or In fact

Explaining significance in your conclusion

● X matters because _____________.
● Ultimately, what is at stake here is _____________.
● In short, __________ , which challenges the common assumption that ___________.

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