Transition Sentences

What are Transition Sentences?
Transition Sentences make clear, obvious connections between ideas. In other words, a transition sentence refers back to the previous sentence/paragraph/idea and also previews the next sentence/paragraph/idea, as in the diagram below.

The following essay outline shows examples of Transition Sentences between paragraphs. Notice that certain words and phrases are underlined because they are repeated. Effective Transition Sentences repeat key ideas from the previous sentence AND introduce the next idea that will be discussed. Like the diagram, a Transition Sentence points backward to a previous idea and also forward to a new idea.

Beginning of the Introduction:
Why is the Odyssey relevant to today’s readers?

End of the Introduction:
The Odyssey helps modern readers reflect on their own lives.

Beginning of First Body Paragraph:
Ironically, The Odyssey’s description of death best helps readers to reflect on their lives.

End of First Body Paragraph:
The tortures described in the Underworld are not only physically painful but also emotionally scarring.

Beginning of Second Body Paragraph:
The tortures have such a strong emotional impact on the sinners in the Underworld because they know that their tortures will last for eternity.

End of Second Body Paragraph:
It must be very frustrating to continue to do something for eternity even when it is obviously pointless, such as rolling a boulder up a hill over and over again.

Beginning of Third Body Paragraph:
The lesson of the Odyssey’s Underworld, that sinners are punished with an eternity of frustration, offers a parallel to the journey of Odysseus.

End of Third Body Paragraph:
Even though Odysseus experiences many frustrations during his journey through life, he escapes suffering an eternity of frustration in the Underworld by carefully reflecting on his life and making good decisions to improve it.

Beginning of Conclusion:
The Odyssey provides a clear lesson to its readers: make sure to live a good life by reflecting on it and making good decisions.