Understanding Introductory Words & Phrases

Introductory words/phrases go at the start of your sentence. When you add them, make sure you put a comma between the main part of your sentence and your introductory word/phrase.

**Common Introductory Words**
- Additionally
- After
- Clearly
- Fortunately
- Furthermore
- However
- If
- Nevertheless
- Similarly
- Throughout
- Unless
- While

**Common Introductory Phrases**
- According to
- As can be seen
- Based on
- Due to
- Generally speaking
- In addition to
- In fact
- To prove this

**Adding It to Your Sentence**
Introductory words/phrases go at the start of your sentence. When you add them, make sure you put a comma between the main part of your sentence and your introductory word/phrase.

**Biggest Error**
Don’t forget the comma! This comma is necessary in separating the dependent clause (the introductory word/phrase that cannot stand on its own) from the independent clause (the main portion of your sentence that could be a complete sentence by itself).

**According to Brown and Herman +, + the study shows that the participants were easily led astray.**

**Similarly, both researchers found that Type A was more popular than Type B.**

**Due to the main character’s lack of empathy, he became a symbol of the isolated elite.**

**While I wanted to go to the store I instead wrote my English paper.**

Gaston College Writing Center