

Writing the Conclusion

The conclusion allows you to have the final say on the issues you have raised in your paper, to synthesize your thoughts, to demonstrate the importance of your ideas, and to propel your reader to a new view of the subject. It is also your opportunity to make a good final impression and to end on a positive note.

- It "wraps up" your essay
- It demonstrates to the reader that you accomplished what you set out to do
- It shows how you have proved your thesis
- It provides the reader with a sense of closure on the topic

Strategies for an effective conclusion

- **Draw a Conclusion**
 - Provide some framework for the significance of what you wrote about. Ask yourself, "So what?" or "Why should anybody care?"
 - Ponder those questions and answer them
- **Come Full Circle**
 - This brings the reader full circle by returning to the theme or themes in the introduction
 - If you begin by describing a scenario, you can end with the same scenario as proof that your essay is helpful in creating a new understanding
 - Refer to the introductory paragraph by using key words, or parallel concepts and images that you also used in the introduction
- **Summarize/Synthesize**
 - Include a brief summary of the paper's main points, but don't simply repeat things that were in the paper. If you choose this common type of conclusion, be sure to synthesize, rather than merely summarizing. Avoid a dull restatement of your major points. Don't monotonously restate your major ideas; instead, show your readers how the points you raised fit together and why your ideas matter.
- **Quotation**
 - Include a provocative quotation from the research or reading you did for the paper. Comment on its importance.
- **Broader Implications**
 - Indicate how the topic/theme of your writing influenced others or how it impacted events to come.

Concluding strategies that do not work

- Beginning with an unnecessary, overused phrase. Don't use these:
 - "in conclusion"
 - "in summary"
 - "in closing"
 - "as shown in the essay"
- Stating the thesis for the very first time
- Introducing a new idea or subtopic in your conclusion
- Making sentimental, emotional appeals that are out of character with the rest of the paper
- Including evidence (quotations, statistics, etc.) that should be in the body of the paper