

Conclusions

Although writing a conclusion may sound like a simple task, conclusions are considered by many to be the most difficult part of a paper to write. It can be difficult to find a way to close your paper. Since the conclusion is the last thing the reader will see before putting down the essay, it is important to finish strong and sound convincing.

There are some important things you will want to include in your conclusion.

✓ **A Sense of Closure**

A conclusion must end your paper. It needs to wrap up loose ends so the reader understands how each part is significant in its connection to the thesis. You do NOT want to bring new information into the conclusion as it will confuse the reader and weaken the paper. Instead, reflect on the information you've already provided.

✓ **Connection to Thesis**

Since the conclusion is ending the paper, it is important to remind your reader of your thesis. Do not just copy and paste it, but rather use the thesis to draw the paper to a logical conclusion. This is also the best way to keep focused throughout the paper.

✓ **Answer the Question "So What?"**

It is important to let the reader know why your paper matters. The best way to finish strong and sound convincing is to leave the reader with something to think about. If you can convince them of the significance of your topic, they will not be able to easily forget it.

✓ **Connect your Conclusion to a Real-Life Situation**

One of the best ways to accomplish this is by connecting your conclusion to the real world. This will help your essay be memorable and not easily forgotten. This may not always be possible, but it is a good strategy to consider.

✓ **Finish Strong and Sound Convincing**

Each of the above points will help to accomplish this last aspect. Remember that the conclusion is the last part of your essay that the reader will see. It is important to take this as the final opportunity to convince the reader of the significance of your thesis.

I hope these points have helped you to develop a strong conclusion! Keep in mind that the suggested length of your conclusion would be about a tenth of your paper or equal to the length of your introduction. Look on the back side of this sheet for help with specific types of conclusions.

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Specific Types of Essay Conclusions

Narrative Essay

Think of your conclusions as the final scene in a movie. Usually, the intent of a “final scene” is to wrap things up and bring a sense of closure to the viewer.

- Explain the significance of the event to the reader
- Consider answering these questions in your conclusion
 - How did that experience affect you for the better or worse?
 - How does that experience continue to affect you today?
 - What about the future?

By answering these questions, you are letting the reader know why your paper is important. You are giving meaning to the paper by answering the question “So what?”

Expository/Research Paper

- When writing a long research paper, summarizing may be appropriate.
- Reiterating the significance of each point you have previously covered can reinforce its importance and enable the reader to remember the subject matter better.
- Consider answering these questions in your conclusion:
 - What has the research shown?
 - What are some shortcomings?
 - What has it added to what was already known about the subject?
 - How might this information be useful to your reader?

Persuasive/Argumentative Essay

An effective conclusion is important because it is your last chance to persuade the reader.

- Appeal to your reader’s emotions by showing how your argument directly relates to them.
- Explain one last time why your solution/opinion is the best one.
- Expressing your hope for the future can also be an effective way to draw on the reader’s emotions and convince them that your way is the right way.
- Suggest actions your reader can take to respond to the content of the essay. This is often called a “call to action.”