



## Conclusions

Conclusions give your essay closure and should leave your reader with a final, interesting impression. A well written conclusion ought to remind your audience of the main points discussed in your essay.

Typically, the conclusion will do three things:

**Link-** Rephrase your thesis statement in order to directly connect your conclusion with your introduction, bringing the essay full circle. This task can usually be accomplished in 1-2 sentences.

**Develop-** Provide substance by asking yourself, “So what?” Remind the reader *why* your topic was important enough to write an entire essay about it. This is usually about 2-3 sentences in length.

**Conclude-** This should be a more general sentence which leaves the reader with something that provides a lasting impression. This part of the conclusion is usually composed of a single powerful sentence.

When writing a conclusion it is helpful to:

- Restate, but do not repeat your topic and why it is important
- Summarize your key points
- Make recommendations
- Have a call to action
- Suggest results of consequences
- Show how your points, support, and examples fit together for a purpose
- End with a warning
- Evoke a vivid image
- Compare to other situations
- Ask a provocative question

When writing a conclusion **DO NOT**:

- Introduce new ideas or topics
- Use a quote as your final sentence
- Write a single sentence as your conclusion
- Focus on minor points
- Include evidence that should have appeared in a body paragraph
- Use clichéd transitions like “In conclusion,” “To conclude,” “In summary”



## **Conclusions for different types of essays:**

### **Compare and Contrast:**

- Summarize main differences and similarities
- Evaluate results of compare and contrast
- Make recommendations

### **Argumentative:**

- Address opposing viewpoints, but remind the reader why they should align with your position
- Have a call for action, offer a solution, overview future research possibilities/discussions

### **Literary Analysis:**

- Echo your thesis and main points without repeating yourself word for word
- Reflect how your topic relates to the story you're analyzing

### **Poetry Explication:**

- Discuss the value of the poem in literature
- Evaluate how the author succeeds in conveying his/her message

### **Research:**

- Provide new insight, not new information
- Offer a solution to an issue; propose a course of action
- Point to the broader significance/impact of your research topic

*This handout was created using sources from:*

Purdue University, <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/724/04/>,  
The Writing Center at Harvard University,  
<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~wricntr/documents/Conclusions.html> and The Write Place, St. Cloud State  
University, <http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/acadwrite/conclude.html> and  
<http://www.usu.edu/markdamen/WritingGuide/24intro.htm>