



Conclusions

Conclusions are important because they wrap up your essay, giving the reader a sense of closure. Reading an essay which lacks a conclusion is like walking down a staircase which is missing the last few steps. Without a conclusion, the reader runs the risk of figuratively falling on his/her face.

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.

Strategies to consider when writing a conclusion:

Ask a provocative question. Use an applicable quotation. Evoke a vivid image. Call for some sort of action. End with a warning. Compare to other situations. Suggest results of consequences.

Things to AVOID when writing a conclusion:

Introducing new information. Using a quote as your final sentence. Focusing on minor points. Using a single sentence as your conclusion. Using clichéd transitions like “In conclusion”. Including evidence which should clearly be placed in the body.
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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> Updated January 2019