Essay Conclusion Guide

Conclusions are an essential part of an essay. They recap the essay's main points and restate how they support the thesis statement.

They also serve as a final comment on the topic. This might be a discussion of the implications of the truth of your thesis (answering the question, so what?) or some discussion providing food for thought for your reader concerning the thesis or paper subject.

Whatever your essay is about, the conclusion should aim to emphasize the significance of your argument, whether that's within your academic subject or in the wider world.

Try to end with a strong, decisive sentence, leaving the reader with a lingering sense of interest in your topic.

Tips for your conclusions

- Link the last paragraph to the first, perhaps by reiterating a word or phrase you used at the beginning.
- To wrap up your conclusion, zoom out to a broader view of the topic and consider the implications of your argument. For example:

Does it contribute a new understanding of your topic?

Does it raise new questions for future study?

Does it lead to practical suggestions or predictions?

Can it be applied to different contexts?

Can it be connected to a broader debate or theme?

 Keep it simple. Conclusions do not have to be very long. If you restate your thesis, recap your body paragraphs and how they support your thesis, and have a strong final statement, your conclusion should be good to go.

DON'T

- Include new evidence
 - Any evidence or analysis that is essential to supporting your thesis statement should appear in the main body of the essay.



Writing Lab Resources

- Use "concluding phrases"
- Avoid using obvious stock phrases to tell the reader what you're doing:

"In conclusion..."

"To sum up..."

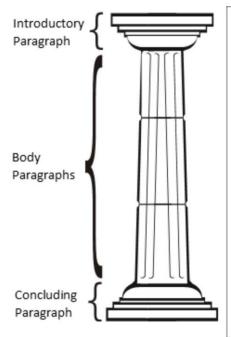
- Undermine your argument
 - o Avoid using apologetic phrases that sound uncertain or confused:

"This is just one approach among many."

"There are good arguments on both sides of this issue."

"There is no clear answer to this problem."

REMEMBER THE CONCLUSION IS THE BOTTOM OF YOUR ESSAY'S PILLAR!



At the top, there is a wide part that narrows to the width of the pillar. This top part is like the introduction. It is broader than the content of the rest of the essay, but it narrows to a focussed thesis at the end of the introduction.

The body of the essay is represented by the column itself. The body stays within the confines of the focus of the thesis. The body of the essay is made up of building blocks which hold up the thesis. Each block is heavy and strong. The strength of a body paragraph comes from the strength of the evidence and explanation provided.

At the bottom, there is another part that widens out from the column to make a pedestal on the floor. In the same way, the conclusion begins with the narrower focus of the body paragraphs and thesis and then widens out to include other ideas. Notice how this pedestal is a mirror-image of the top of the pillar. Similarly, a conclusion is like a mirror-image of an introduction.