

CONCLUSIONS

WHAT ARE CONCLUSIONS?

Conclusions are the last section in a piece of writing. A Conclusion is meant to signal to the reader that they have reached the end of the paper.

An effective conclusion should stress the importance of the claim(s) made in your thesis statement and give the essay a sense of closure. It should also leave the reader with a clear and final impression, one which encourages them to continue to think on your topic after they have finished reading.

Ideally, a conclusion paragraph functions as much more than just a summary of your paper. Like an introduction has a hook to bring the reader in to the topic you are writing about, the conclusion should do the opposite and lead the reader out of the paper.

HOW TO WRITE A CONCLUSION

1. Consider what the main takeaway from your writing is and restate it. Show your readers why this paper is important by making the outcome clear.
 - a. What is the most important thing for your audience to recall? What do you want your reader to remember about your piece?
 - b. Would a call to action statement end things provocatively and intriguingly? How can you end things in an interesting or thought-provoking way?
2. Reflect on the journey your writing has taken from beginning to end.
 - a. How has learning about this topic helped/changed you as a person? Is it something other people can learn from also?
3. Instead of merely summarizing your piece, think of the bigger picture, or all the different issues and people your writing touches beyond the confines of your essay. Strive to leave your audience with a deeper and more profound understanding.
 - a. How does this knowledge benefit them as an individual? How does it benefit all people?
 - b. Or answer the question(s), So what? or Why should the reader care?
4. Leave a lasting impression by ending on an interesting or uplifting note.
 - a. Assuming the reader will continue to think about your piece after they finish reading, what would you like your reader to be thinking of? What would you like your reader to share?

CONTACT US:

(702) 895-3908 | writingcenter@unlv.edu
unlv.edu/writing-center



COMMON PITFALLS FOR WRITERS STRUGGLING WITH CONCLUSIONS

Many writers feel burnt out after completing a long or arduous piece of writing. This fatigue can lead to sloppily written conclusions – a missed opportunity for writers to make a final impression on their readers! Make sure to leave yourself enough time to write a strong conclusion, and consider the tips for navigating the following situations.

Adding New Information in the Conclusion

You don't want to overload your reader with new ideas in your conclusion. Introducing new information at the end of your piece not only diminishes the clarity of your writing, but it also confuses your reader. Instead of waiting until the end to reveal interesting or key information, include that earlier in your writing to avoid muddling the focus of your conclusion.

Simply Summarizing the Paper's Ideas

Don't just tell readers that your paper covered a, b, and c topic. A better way of reiterating your paper's ideas is by synthesizing them instead of summarizing them. Explain to the reader how the points you made and the support and examples you used fit together to provide a unified idea. It is important to connect the dots for your reader instead of simply presenting evidence and assuming the reader will understand the broader significance or how it ties into your thesis

Only Restating the Thesis

A conclusion that only restates the thesis does not entice or interest the reader because they should understand your paper's main point after reading most of it. Instead, use the conclusion to demonstrate your understanding/mastery of the subject. Connecting dots and reflecting is a key part of synthesizing and analyzing for your reader!

Handout created for the UNLV Writing Center by Karyn Panem, Summer 2022