

Conclusion info:

Your essay depends on the effectiveness of the conclusion. You must leave your reader with a favorable impression of you as a writer and thinker.

The conclusion should, therefore, convey a sense of completeness and closure as well as the significance of or the implications of the paper's topic.

Too often a poor conclusion lowers the overall grade of the essay substantially.

POOR conclusions - Note – POOR conclusions -

1. just stop with no sense of closure
2. summarize the essay
3. contain numerous errors
4. use first or second person
5. use phrases such as “in today’s society,” “everyone,” or “all”
6. clearly indicate the writer ran out of time
7. prove the teacher’s suspicion that the writer did not even proof the final copy
- never, ever a wise move

Requirements for writing an effective conclusion:

- Begin with a reworded thesis statement to remind the reader of the topic. A skilled writer will not merely repeat the exact words. Your restated thesis may reflect the result of your analysis.
- Do not just summarize the points of the essay.
- Do not repeat body or intro content.
- End with a clincher.* Leave your reader with a sense of closure. You are in fact, concluding.
- Avoid these phrases:
 - in conclusion
 - to conclude
 - in summary
 - to sum up

Suggestions for writing an effective conclusion:

- End with more general statements that reverse the general-to-specific pattern of the introduction.
- Tell / explain the significance of your thesis / body content / subject (answers the “so what?” question).
- Consider the implications of your analysis. What does your point / content imply or suggest?
- Points should be emphatic, relevant, and logical.
- A quotation could reinforce your point. Yes, a quotation in the conclusion is perfectly acceptable but not in the final sentence.
- Offer a final comment or observation. What insight have you gained from writing this paper? Has a deeper understanding resulted from the writing of this paper?
- Refer to your introduction. By repeating (Repetition is OK in this case.) a word or phrase in the intro, you have brought your essay full circle and have provided a sense of unity and order.
- Relate content to a broader perspective. For example, you might link your topic to a current situation or to another literary character, work, or theme.
- Do not repeat body or intro content. Repeating previous content is boring and insulting to your reader.
- End with a sentence that is parallel in structure establishing a sense of balance or order.
- Avoid repetition of previous content. Repetition is annoying, isn't it?

*BTW –

Each body paragraph should also have a clincher that connects the ideas of the paragraph to the thesis. It does NOT provide transition to the next paragraph.