

Conclusions

Conclusions are one of the most important parts of an essay. It is often what the reader will remember most, because it is the last thing they read. This paper is designed to give you some ideas about what a conclusion is and some ideas on how to write one.

In writing a conclusion, there are three main objectives that you want to accomplish: You want to (1) re-illustrate the significance of your thesis statement, (2) complete the essay by tying all points together, and (3) leave the reader with a final impression.

Randa Holewa has provided the following information for our benefit, including suggestions of how to write a conclusion and some strategies, demonstrating with examples, of how this is to be done.

Suggestions:

- **Answer the question "So What?"**
Show your readers why this paper was important. Show them that your paper was meaningful and useful.
- **Synthesize, don't summarize**
Don't simply repeat things that were in your paper. They have read it. Show them how the points you made and the support and examples you used were not random, but fit together.
- **Redirect your readers**
Give your reader something to think about, perhaps a way to use your paper in the "real" world. If your introduction went from general to specific, make your conclusion go from specific to general. Think globally.
- **Create a new meaning**
You don't have to give new information to create a new meaning. By demonstrating how your ideas work together, you can create a new picture. Often the sum of the paper is worth more than its parts.

Strategies:

- **Posing questions:** Posing questions, either to your readers or in general, may help your readers gain a new perspective on the topic, which they may not have held before reading your conclusion. It may also bring your main ideas together to create a new meaning.

Example

Campaign advertisements should help us understand the candidate's qualifications and positions on the issues. Instead, most tell us what a boob or knave the opposing candidate is, or they present general images of the candidate as a family person or God-fearing American. Do such advertisements contribute to creating an informed electorate or a people who choose political leaders the same way they choose soft drinks and soap?