

Tips for Writing Conclusions

The purpose of a concluding paragraph is to summarize your argument and drive your point home. At this point, your audience has read everything you have to say on the topic, so you will be able to more forcefully assert the truth of your thesis. A good concluding paragraph will do 2 important things:

Shake hands with your introduction



This means that your introduction and conclusion should be similar to each other in style, tone and mood. Like two different people shaking hands, they should be connected, but not identical.

It should answer the question



Give your audience a sense of what they should do with the information they just read.

Good Ways to Conclude Your Essay

- Tell your reader how you expect them to react to the information in your paper
- Offer a prediction related to the future of your topic
- Propose a course of action that you hope your audience will take
- Warn your audience about what could happen if they don't act on what you have told them
- Discuss the effectiveness of your argument
- Use one of the techniques that you used to introduce your essay (e.g. a quote)

Things to Avoid in Concluding Paragraphs

- Obvious statements (e.g. In conclusion . . .)
- Going off topic
- Introducing new information
- Reusing wording from other parts of your essay, especially the introduction
- Meaningless clichés (e.g. It will all work out in time)