



School of Liberal Arts

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Concluding Paragraphs

A conclusion signals to your reader the end of the discussion you began in the introduction and provides a sense of closure. This is your last chance to emphasize your ideas. Effective conclusions vary with your assignment, the purpose, and the professor's expectations. Here are some strategies to help you structure *your* conclusion. Read through these strategies first, and then decide which one fulfills your assignment and purpose.

Strategies that usually work:

- Refer to the introduction and tie the ideas together. This strategy may show you whether you stayed focused or not.
- In a long paper, summarize the main ideas with new word choices.
- Resolve the problem you stated in the introduction, and/or speculate about what your conclusion implies for the future.
- If appropriate, mention problems or questions about the topic which still remain unresolved. Help your reader understand the implications of these unresolved issues.

Strategies writers usually avoid:

- In papers of less length it's monotonous if you restate your main points or thesis. However, in a long paper a brief review of the main idea may be effective.
- When writing for the humanities, don't announce "In conclusion," etc. However, "In conclusion" could be effective when used in scientific writing. Make sure you find out your instructor's expectations.
- Don't explain to the reader what your essay is about. E.g. "In this essay, I explained..."
- Don't mention a new idea based on information not included in your essay because this may change the focus of the paper and distract readers.

Note: For more information, please refer to your writing textbook.

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