



UNIVERSITY OF
**DETROIT
MERCY**

Conclusions

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The Writing Center
DETROIT MERCY

What Is the Purpose of the Conclusion in an Essay?

- ⇒ The conclusion provides the writer's final thoughts for the essay and serves as the summation of the thesis, but also moves beyond the essay, suggesting "what next."
- ⇒ The summation should be worded differently from language in the introduction.
- ⇒ The conclusion paragraph should be clear and concise, wrap up the essay, and resolve any loose ends.
- ⇒ The conclusion does not introduce any new information (or source material) that will alter the understanding of the essay as laid out by the thesis and body paragraphs.
- ⇒ The conclusion should be a powerful reminder of the topic; spend as much time developing the conclusion as on developing the introduction.

What Are Strategies for Creating Strong Conclusions?

- ⇒ **Explain the significance of the topic.** Show what readers now understand or see differently because of your argument.
- ⇒ **Look ahead.** Suggest new questions, areas for future research, or other ways the topic could be explored.
- ⇒ **Extend the application.** Explain how your ideas, evidence, or methods could apply to other situations, issues, or contexts. How could your analysis work in other disciplines?
- ⇒ **Recommend action.** Describe what should happen next or what actions your argument supports. Call readers to action.
- ⇒ **Connect to the bigger picture.** Place your argument within a broader issue, theme, or real-world context to emphasize its importance.

What to Avoid in a Concluding Paragraph

- ⇒ Do not repeat the introduction.
- ⇒ Do not simply summarize everything that was discussed in the essay.
- ⇒ Ensure the conclusion is detailed and is a fully developed paragraph.

Sample Conclusion Paragraph with Key Components Labeled

[1] Despite the seeming ease of electronic notetaking, slow and steady wins the metaphorical race of effective note taking. Hand-written notes necessitate a degree of attentiveness that is not engaged during electronic note-taking. [2] The attentiveness required during note taking also encourages students to filter and record the most important information from the lecture. According to the research, writing information verbatim does not equate to effective note taking if retention is the goal. Lastly, hand-written information has been shown to be encoded and processed by the brain more effectively than by taking notes via the competing method of a keyboard-centered, electronic device. [3] This

information serves well to encourage a hands-on, kinesthetic learning process and a move away from over reliance on device-centered learning as the sole means of recording and retaining lectures, leading to the need for further research in this area.

This Conclusion Paragraph Includes:

- [1]** A topic sentence and transitional statement.
- [2]** A new summation or reiteration of the paper's main ideas and thesis.
- [3]** A call for further research.

Source: Harvard College Writing Center <https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/what-do-introductions-across-disciplines-have-common>