

The Writing Center @ EOU

Tips for Writing Conclusions

Useful Strategies

Why does it Matter?

In your thesis you made an assertion. In the body of your paper, you supported that assertion. Now, in the conclusion you should tie everything together. Why does everything you previously stated matter? How is it connected to the bigger picture? How can your reader apply your argument to his or her life?

Moving Forward

At the end of your paper, your reader should be left with something to think about. In your conclusion, try to offer your reader insight on how your topic may be applied to future developments. What future implications does your argument have? Does your paper provide a key solution to a pressing issue? Do your findings reveal a need for further studies?

Looking Back

Rather than setting a precedent for future action, sometimes your paper may discuss a key development in the past. In your conclusion, consider discussing the larger scale historical significance of your argument and how its effects can still be seen today. How did your topic influence a major historical event or time period? What lessons from the past are still applicable to our lives?

Things to Avoid

New Information

Your conclusion should not contain any new concepts or new evidence not discussed earlier in your paper.

Simple Summary

Your conclusion can contain a restatement of your main ideas and it should relate to your thesis. However, it should not simply provide a summary of what you already discussed. Your conclusion should have some final thoughts on your topic and leave your reader with something to consider.

Changing Tone

In academic writing, you often use a formal or analytical tone. Avoid approaching your conclusion with an informal tone or by trying to make an overly emotional appeal that does not fit the tone of the rest of your paper.

References: The Writing Center at UNC-Chapel Hill, Harvard College Writing Center, University of Maryland University College

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Campus Writing Tutors: <http://eou.mywconline.com>

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