
Ways to Conclude an Essay

The University of North Carolina at Pembroke Writing Center

Conclusion writing can perhaps be the most difficult part of writing an essay. When constructing an essay, it is important to keep in mind that the conclusion is the most important part of your paper because it is the last impression your reader has of the paper.

Successful conclusions should:

- Re-state and stress the importance of the thesis statement
- Provide closure to the essay
- Leave a lasting impression on the reader

Methods to writing conclusions

1. Answer the question "So what?"

• This is where you will exhibit the importance of the paper and show the reader why the essay provides meaningful and useful information.

2. Synthesize, don't summarize

• Make sure you do not simply repeat what you have previously stated. Be sure to use the information from your paper to connect with your main idea.

3. Redirect the reader

• This is where you can be more creative and leave your reader with a general message or something to think about. Be sure that if your paper is general to specific that your conclusion is specific to general.

4. Create a new meaning

• It is important to note that this does not mean that you have to introduce new information. If you clearly demonstrate how your ideas work together, you can

create a new outlook on your reasoning behind your essay. Quite often, the conclusion is more important than the essay's other portions.

#1: Echoing

Echoing your thoughts of your paper is a good way to bring your reader back around to your main idea of your essay. This could be useful by echoing the thoughts presented in your introductory paragraph and providing connections to your essay to create a new understanding of your essay.

Types of essays that may include Echoing Conclusions:

- Persuasive essay
- Descriptive essay
- Narrative essay
- Expository essay
- Literature Review
- Lab Report

Example written by Randa Holewa

Introduction

From the parking lot, I could see the towers of the castle of the Magic Kingdom standing stately against the blue sky. To the right, the tall peak of The Matterhorn rose even higher. From the left, I could hear the jungle sounds of Adventureland. As I entered the gate, Main Street stretched before me with its quaint shops evoking an old-fashioned small town so charming it could never have existed. I was entranced. Disneyland may have been built for children, but it brings out the child in adults.

Conclusion

I thought I would spend a few hours at Disneyland, but here I was at 1:00 A.M., closing time, leaving the front gates with the now dark towers of the Magic Kingdom behind me. I could see tired children, toddling along and struggling to keep their eyes open as best they could. Others slept in their parents' arms as we waited for the parking lot tram that would take us to our cars. My forty-year-old feet ached, and I felt a bit sad to think that in a couple of days I would be leaving California, my vacation over, to go back to my desk. But then I smiled to think that for at least a

day I felt ten years old again.

#2: Challenging your reader

When you are “challenging your reader,” it is important to note that this does not mean that you are leaving your reader hanging with questions, unclear thoughts, or concerns. By challenging your reader, this means that you would be assisting your reader by redirecting information from your essay in a way that they may be able to apply the information to their own lives.

Types of essays that may include “Challenging your reader” conclusions:

- Informative essay
- Expository essay
- Narrative essay • Persuasive

Example written by Randa Holewa:

Conclusion

Though serving on a jury is not only a civic responsibility but also an interesting experience, many people probably still view jury duty as a chore that interrupts their jobs and the routine of their daily lives. However, juries are part of America's attempt to be a free and just society. Jury duty inspires people to be interested and responsible citizens.

#3: Looking into the future

By looking into the future, your reader can have the potential to understand the importance of your essay or their thoughts can be redirected to think differently about the information presented. This could be an instance where the reader may decide to apply new information to their own lives or see concepts more globally.

Types of essays that may include conclusions that look into the Future:

- Literature Review
- Descriptive essay
- Narrative essay

Example written by Randa Holewa:

Conclusion

Without well-qualified teachers, schools are little more than buildings and equipment. If higher-paying careers continue to attract the best and the brightest students, there will not only be a shortage of teachers, but the teachers available may not have the best qualifications. Our youth will suffer. And when youth suffers, the future suffers.

#4: Calling for more research

Calling for more research brings your ideas of your essay together but it also lets your reader know that the information that you have provided can have the potential for improvement in the future. This is useful if the information you have discussed is in regards to an unresolved issue or area of research.

Types of essays that may include conclusions Calling for more Research:

- Research essay
- Literature Review
- Lab Report

Example written by Randa Holewa:

Conclusion

Campaign advertisements should help people understand the candidate's qualifications and positions on the issues. Instead, most tell people 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. More research should be done to investigate if advertisements contribute to creating an informed electorate or if people choose political leaders the same way they choose soft drinks and soap.