

# Writing Conclusions



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Conclusions serve as a way to revisit the main points of your essay and make a significant final statement. Typically, your thesis is restated and the arguments you used to support it are brought up one last time. A good conclusion leaves your reader with something meaningful to take with them.

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## Ways to Structure Your Conclusion

### Upside-Down Funnel

Similar to an introduction, the funnel can be used as a basic template for a conclusion, only this time, the funnel is reversed. This type of conclusion begins with your restated thesis and gradually becomes broader and more general. In this way, you can show your reader that what you are writing about has meaning outside of the paper, too! Here is an example:

*Although the intense pressure of getting good grades can seem overwhelming to students, there are many different things that can be done to relieve some of this stress. Eating healthy foods, getting enough sleep, and learning better time management skills are all key ways of dealing with this problem head-on. Not only will students feel more capable of handling their schoolwork, but they will also learn valuable life skills they can carry into adulthood, as well.*

### Recommending Action

This conclusion can be used to urge your reader to do something or to make a change. This is an important technique to learn if your paper needs to be persuasive. This is a necessary skill to be successful in writing a great speech. Here is an example:

*So long as Americans remain complacent about the prevalence of gun violence in schools, the problem will continue to get worse. While discussions about the issue keep people informed about current events, Americans must be willing to do more. Calling state representatives, asking about upcoming changes to gun laws, and taking the threat of any shooting as a serious matter are all ways to create a brighter future for America.*

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\*Adapted from: *The DK Handbook* (2009), eds. Anne Frances Wysocki and Dennis A. Lynch

# Writing Conclusions, Cont'd

## Additional Strategies

**Make connections between the main idea in your paper and its larger implications.**

**Avoid sounding cliché by writing “In conclusion” or “In summary.”**

**Use an analogy or metaphor to drive your main point home.**

**Conclusions reinforce good introductions. For example, refer to a compelling example you wrote in your introduction.**

## Drafting Tips

### **Write your conclusion first.**

Knowing the point you ultimately want to arrive at can help you guide your paper with ease.

### **Finished does not always mean finished.**

Just because you put a period at the end of the last sentence does not mean you are done writing. Sometimes it is best to walk away from your paper for a while and start revising once you have had some time to reflect.

### **Be passionate.**

It is not enough to convey conviction in the final lines of your paper. Once you start the revision process, look back through your writing and make sure you work to convince your reader throughout your essay and not just in your conclusion.

### **There is a difference between summary and repetition.**

Try to avoid repeating things you have previously said. Instead, take your ideas and show the reader how those ideas are not separate, but connected.

### **Nothing is set in stone.**

Always keep in mind that writing is a fluid process. This means that you should never be afraid to edit where you see fit. You will often find that the point you arrive at in your conclusion may not link up with the rest of your paper, or vice versa. Revising those points is one of the keys to writing well.

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