

## The Conclusion

For many writers, constructing the final paragraph is just as confusing as creating the introduction. However, there are several strategies to create a conclusion that will effectively reinforce major points made in the paper and make a favorable lasting impression. As with the introduction, different types of writing call for different kinds of conclusions, so keep this in mind when developing your closing paragraph.

### Closing Strategies:

- **Summarize the key points made throughout the essay, stressing the importance of your thesis.** In the summary, be sure to use different words. You may add one last bit of evidence, such as a compelling scenario or example, to complete your argument. Remember that your conclusion, like all parts of your essay, must return to the thesis.
- **Relate your essay to a broader audience.** This is the “so what?” factor — your chance to prove the value or significance of your thesis beyond the essay. You should add a new insight that you have learned from writing the paper.
- **Make a call for action, especially in argumentative essays.** This might be a call for further research or another appropriate response.

### Closings to AVOID!

- **A simple restatement of what you have already said:** While summarizing key points is sometimes an acceptable conclusion strategy, you should not merely repeat what you have already said in your essay. Instead, focus on what your readers should conclude after considering your main points. What new meaning or understanding about your topic should your audience gain from reading your essay?
- **Reference to the opposition:** Especially in argumentative writing, be careful to avoid referring to the opposition’s counterargument(s) in your concluding paragraph since you do not want to leave your readers thinking about reasons to disagree with you. Instead, handle counterarguments in the body of the essay.
- **An uncertain tone:** Unless you are writing a personal/reflective essay, avoid hedging phrases like “I think,” “I feel,” and “I believe,” as these undermine your confidence in your own claims and may cause readers to doubt your credibility.