

CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions

A strong conclusion is just as important as an effective introduction. However, it can also be one of the most challenging parts of assignment writing: You need to **leave your reader with the best possible impression of your work.** And, you need to **recap all your main points without simply repeating yourself.** When crafting your conclusion, it may help to bear the following in mind:

- **Sell your argument.** The conclusion is your final opportunity to convince your reader that they have read something insightful that was worth their time. Make the biggest, boldest pitch you can for the value of what you have argued for throughout the main body.
- **Be authoritative and confident** as you make your closing argument.
- **Explain the implications of your findings.**
- You may also **point out where there might be a gap** in the existing research.
- **Reaffirm your overall argument**, again touching briefly on each of the points you discussed throughout the main body, drawing them all together in a strong concluding sentence.



TOP TIP

The conclusion is usually about 10-15% of your paper (e.g. around 250 words in a 2,000-word essay).

What to include in a Conclusion?

- ✓ Conclusions **bring together all the strands** of your essay and offers your final thoughts.
- ✓ **Refer back to the main thesis/points** of your essay at the end of your argument and end on a well-developed note.
- ✓ **Conclusions should refer back to the question** - leave the reader with the sense that you answered that!

What to avoid in a Conclusion?

✗ **Avoid phrases like 'in conclusion', 'to summarise', 'to conclude', 'inbrief',** etc. They are **unnecessary, overused and they break the flow.**

✗ **Avoid phrases such as 'this essay has attempted to demonstrate...'** - tell the reader that your paper **has** demonstrated what you set out to do in your introduction.

✗ **Don't just summarise** your essay. Rather, remind your reader of the key ideas discussed in your essay, and reiterate why they are significant or how they challenge or compare to prevailing ideas in the field.

✗ **Don't simply repeat, word-for-word**, what you said in your introduction.

✗ **Do not introduce new information** in the conclusion.

Key words and phrases for Conclusions:

- Therefore
- Thus
- Overall
- As a result of
- Finally
- Given this
- On the basis of

Useful Links

- Meg Mosier, 'How to Write a Strong Conclusion', Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7gf71u-b-xo>
- Oxbridge Essays, 'How to Write a Captivating Essay Conclusion', Available at: <https://www.oxbridgeessays.com/blog/how-to-conclude-your-essay-well/>.
- University of New England, Academic Skills, 'Conclusion paragraphs', Available at: <https://aso-resources.une.edu.au/academic-writing-course/paragraphs/introduction-paragraphs/>
- Harvard College Writing Center, 'Ending the Essay: Conclusions', Available at: <https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/ending-essay-conclusions>.
- Walden University Writing Center, 'Writing a Paper: Conclusions', Available at: <https://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/writingprocess/conclusions>.
- Ref-N-Write, 'Academic Phrases for Writing Conclusion Section of a Research Paper', Available at: <https://www.ref-n-write.com/trial/research-paper-sample-writing-conclusion-section-academic-phrasebank-vocabulary/>

Other Relevant Online PDFs

- Introductions
- How to Write an Essay
- How to Build an Academic Argument
- Grammar
- Punctuation
- Sentence Structure