

Crafting Your Conclusion

- The conclusion allows you to have the **final say** on the issues you have raised in your paper, to **synthesize your thoughts**, to **demonstrate the importance of your ideas**, and to **propel your reader to a new view** of the subject.
- You should remind the reader of the strengths of your argument. Make sure, however, that your conclusion is not simply a repetitive summary or a repeat of your thesis. **Use different words!**

Strategies to Consider:

- **Answer the question "So What?"**
Show your readers why this paper was important. Show them that your paper was meaningful and useful. *Suggest the implications of your findings!*
- **Synthesize; don't summarize**
Don't simply repeat things that were in your paper. Show your reader how the points you made and the evidence you used were not random, but *fit together*.
- **Redirect your readers**
Give your reader something to think about, perhaps a way to use your paper in the real world. *Offer a "call to action."*
- **Echo the Introduction**
Echoing your introduction can *bring the reader full-circle*. If you begin by describing a scenario, you can end with the same scenario as proof that your essay was helpful in creating a new understanding.
- **Pose a Question**
Posing questions may help your readers gain a new perspective on the topic, which they may not have held before reading your conclusion. Questions can also bring your main ideas together to *create a new meaning*.

Strategies to Avoid:

- Beginning with an unnecessary, overused phrase such as "in conclusion," "in summary," or "in closing."
- Introducing a new idea or subtopic in your conclusion.
- Ending with a rephrased thesis statement without any substantive changes.
- Including evidence (quotes, statistics, etc.) that should be in the body of the paper.

