

Conclusions

What a really good conclusion is good for:

Your conclusion should make your reader understand why your topic and reasoning should matter to them, even after they've put your paper down.

It gives you the chance to have the last word on your topic—to really leave your reader with something to walk away with, and give them a chance to see the application of your topic to their everyday life.

Your conclusions allows you to consider broader themes and make new and interesting connections based on the research you've done and your own life experience

It should leave your reader glad they read your paper. As the University of North Carolina Writing Center states, "It is your gift to the reader (University of North Carolina, 2019).

DO:

Make your conclusion answer the question, "So what?" Why is what you've just written about important? To whom is it important? Why should I want to remember what you just said three days or three years from now?

Return to the main points of your paper, but don't repeat them verbatim. Say it in a new way, with a really good quote from your research, or an anecdote from your life.

Direct the reader to *do* something with the information they've just absorbed from your paper. Propose an action, present a solution to a problem (the one your paper is about) or ask questions to get the reader to think more about your subject.

DO NOT:

Restate your thesis statement word for word. Your conclusion should bring your reader full circle in your paper, but not using the exact same phrases.

State your thesis for the first time. Your thesis statement belongs at the beginning of your paper, so the reader knows what to expect.

Use emotional or illogical appeals or arguments in your conclusion. The rest of your paper is based on solid research and sound reasoning, so do not abandon those now.