

Strategies for Writing Conclusions



Conclusions are often the most difficult part of the writing process, as many writers feel that they have nothing left to say. However, the writer needs to keep in mind that the conclusion is often what the reader remembers best. Therefore, your paper should a.) **stress the importance of the thesis statement**, b.) **give the paper a sense of completeness**, and c.) **leave a final impression on the reader**.

TYPES OF CONCLUSIONS

- **Echoing the Introduction:** An effective way of bringing a paper full circle, this strategy is meant to begin and end with the same scenario. By echoing your introduction, you will end your paper with proof that your essay was helpful in creating a new understanding.

Example

Introduction

From the parking lot, I could see the towers of the castle of the Magic Kingdom standing stately against the blue sky. To the right, the tall peak of The Matterhorn rose even higher. From the left, I could hear the jungle sounds of Adventureland. As I entered the gate, Main Street stretched before me with its quaint shops evoking an old-fashioned small town so charming it could never have existed. I was entranced. Disneyland may have been built for children, but it brings out the child in adults.

Conclusion

I thought I would spend a few hours at Disneyland, but here I was at 1:00 A.M., closing time, leaving the front gates with the now dark towers of the Magic Kingdom behind me. I could see tired children, toddling along and struggling to keep their eyes open as best they could. Others slept in their parents' arms as we waited for the parking lot tram that would take us to our cars. My forty-year-old feet ached, and I felt a bit sad to think that in a couple of days I would be leaving California, my vacation over, to go back to my desk. But then I smiled to think that for at least a day I felt ten years old again.

- **Challenging the Reader:** By issuing a challenge to the reader, you are helping them to redirect the information in the paper, in an effort to allow them to apply it to their own lives.

Example

Though serving on a jury is not only a civic responsibility but also an interesting experience, many people still view jury duty as a chore that interrupts their jobs and the routine of their daily lives. However, juries are part of America's attempt to be a free and just society. Thus, jury duty challenges us to be interested and responsible citizens.

- **Looking to the Future:** This strategy will emphasize the importance of your paper; it may help the reader apply new information to their lives or see things more globally.

Example

Without well-qualified teachers, schools are little more than buildings and equipment. If higher-paying careers continue to attract the best and the brightest students, there will not only be a shortage of teachers, but the teachers available may not have the best qualifications. Our youth will suffer. And when youth suffers, the future suffers.

- **Posing Questions:** Helping the reader gain a new perspective on the topic is the essential purpose of this strategy. It may also bring your main ideas together to create new meaning.

Example

Campaign advertisements should help us understand the candidate's qualifications and positions on the issues. Instead, most tell us what a boob or knave the opposing candidate is, or they present general images of the candidate as a family person or God-fearing American. Do such advertisements contribute to creating an informed electorate or a people who choose political leaders the same way they choose soft drinks and soap?