

Writing the Conclusion

1. Re-read the BODY of your paper to determine that it serves to DEVELOP and PROVE your THESIS.
2. Make any needed adjustments to the organization (change the order of details or sections) to create better UNITY, EMPHASIS, and COHERENCE.
3. “Outline” your conclusion:
 - a. Begin by reiterating or recapitulating the original thesis. Paraphrase or restate it in other words.
 - b. Summarize the 2, 3, or 4 main ideas, key points or thesis evaluations.
 - c. State your final conclusion. “Therefore, _____” or “So, _____.”

This should ANSWER, PROVE or ADDRESS your actual thesis.

4. Generalize or universalize to close the paper. Questions to think about:
 - a. What did you learn through your investigation of the thesis?
 - b. What main idea would you like the reader to gain from your paper?
 - c. How do the ideas you’ve analyzed apply to the real world?
 - d. What is the author’s message about life? Humanity? Society? Morality?
 - e. Basically, SO WHAT?? Why is what you’ve researched and proven in your thesis important?