

Concluding Paragraphs

Ending a paper without a conclusion is like leaving without saying goodbye. Conclusions are important because they bring closure to the paper and leave your reader with a final message.

Conclusions appear at the very end of a paper or document. In shorter pieces, the conclusion is one final paragraph; in longer documents, a conclusion may be a final section that consists of more than one paragraph. In either case, conclusions should accomplish two major things:

1. **Remind the reader of the main things about the topic that you would like the reader to remember.**

Depending on your purpose and audience, this task can be accomplished in a variety of ways. In a paper with only a few main points, the writer will often restate each of the main points. In a paper with many points, the writer will restate the key points for the reader to remember. Keep in mind that **restate** does not mean to repeat the exact words from the introduction. In most cases, it's best to give the reader some variety by stating your ideas in a different way.

2. **Bring closure to the paper.**

Using an effective transition as you begin your conclusion is especially important, since it will help your reader to understand that he or she has reached the final part of the paper. In addition, ending the paragraph with a **powerful final thought** can also help the reader to understand that the paper is complete.

For examples of conclusions, please see the final paragraphs in the following WINK essays:

Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, by Harlan Helseth

A Semester of Volunteering, by Ashley Eide

Animal Control, by Shawn Burrus