



Concluding a Paper

Advice from UDM Writing Center Consultant Kat Hoffman, Biology

The conclusion is one of the most, if not *the* most, important parts of your paper. Always leave yourself time to review your conclusion several times; it is the last part of your essay your reader will read. Make the conclusion memorable and error-free! Rather than just summarize, your purpose is to answer the question “So what?” for the reader and leave the reader with a sense of what he or she is supposed to take away from the paper.

DO'S & DON'TS OF WRITING A CONCLUSION

Do

- Use words other than the clichéd “to summarize,” “in conclusion,” etc.
- Restate your main points in a way that shows your reader their importance
- Bring up a provocative concluding argument or suggestion to make your essay unique
- Indicate the results or consequences of what you already discussed in your body paragraphs
- Use a quote or question to reiterate your purpose in the paper

Don't

- Restate your thesis word for word
- Introduce an entirely new topic or subtopic (although you may end with a provocative idea or question; see above)
- Focus on a minor point of your essay
- Apologize for your views (“I may not be an expert but...”)
- Conclude with a sentence tacked onto the end of your last body paragraph

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