

Writing an Appropriate Conclusion

While we spend relatively little time on the conclusion during tutoring sessions, that does not mean that it is an unimportant part of your paper. In fact, a good conclusion is one of the things that you must focus on if you want to move up in terms of your grade. Here are some helpful hints and a checklist for your conclusion.

Helpful Hints:

- While your conclusion should summarize the main points of your paper, it should not be only summary.
- As you start your conclusion, ask yourself if you are writing on the same topic/author for your next paper? If so, include potential ideas for your next paper in your conclusion.
- Avoid the phrase “in conclusion” as the starter for your concluding paragraph!
- Along the same lines, do not end your paper with a cliché, or a broad statement (please, nothing along the lines of “and this will be something that affects humans for decades to come”).

Conclusion Checklist:

___ A proper summary of your paper. This should not be a restatement of your introduction. You can cover the same basic points that you covered in your introduction, but you should focus more of the question of *significance*. Why should we care about what you have written? What are some of the real-world implications.

___ In your conclusion, you should mention some questions that you would like to investigate further. What did this paper make you think about that you didn't think about before?

___ Have someone read over your conclusion. If they laugh or smirk at the first or last lines of the paragraph, rewrite them until they pass the “smirk test.”