

The Conclusion

There is no tried and true formula for writing a conclusion; however, there are some elements that most good conclusions have.

Think about your introduction and conclusion as bookends to your essay: **The conclusion continues the conversation you began in your introduction.**

FIRST

“Touch back” to the main idea of the essay, as stated in the thesis paragraph.

THEN

“Look to the Future” What further discussion could this essay lead to? What could you write about next?

AND/OR

“The heart of the matter” What difference does it all make? Why should the reader care?

FINALLY

“The zinger” What final statement can you end with that will leave the reader thinking “Wow!”? (if you’re going to end with a quote—this can be a great place to put it)

Think of “conclude” as a verb, not a noun. The conclusion is not a thing, but an active way of drawing your paper to a close---what can you conclude from the evidence you provided in your body paragraph?

Think about your conclusion as a new understanding or clarification that comes as a result of what you’ve presented to your reader.