



## Research, Write, Present | Expository Essay Concluding Paragraph



### Key Concept

Congratulations! You captured the attention of your audience in your introduction. You then used all the information you gathered and the knowledge you gained to explain your topic in your body paragraphs. Your essay is interesting and informative. It is well organized and flows smoothly toward the conclusion.

But what is a conclusion?

An effective conclusion is a paragraph that summarizes the topic and combines the main points in your essay into a new idea or concept. It recaps what the essay explains, offers a new viewpoint or insight, and makes a lasting impression.

Can you summarize your topic so that readers feel satisfied when they finish your essay? Can you make readers remember what they learned from your essay? The conclusion paragraph contains the last words your audience reads, so you want it to be clear, satisfying, and memorable.

### Look Ahead

**Task:** Draft a concluding paragraph for your expository essay.

**Goal:** Show that you can summarize and synthesize your essay in a memorable conclusion.

You may want to review an example of a *concluding paragraph* before you begin.

**See the example:**  
[Concluding Paragraph](#)



## Vocabulary

### Words to Remember

This page gives basic definitions for some important terms that can help you learn about writing a concluding paragraph. You can get a more complete definition of each term from [Fact Monster](#)\*.

### New Word

**Synthesize:** Produce something new by combining existing information to form a new idea or concept.

### Review Words

**Body:** The main content of a written work, not including parts with specific purposes.

**Cause:** A person, group, event, idea, action, or object that produces a specific result or outcome.

**Classify:** Arrange people, groups, places, events, ideas, actions, or objects so that each one is assigned to a category.

**Compare:** Study two (or more) people, groups, places, events, ideas, actions, or objects to identify shared characteristics.

**Conclusion:** A judgment, decision, or solution reached for specific reasons.

**Contrast:** Type or graphics that work together to create a desired effect; also, study two (or more) people, groups, places, events, ideas, actions, or objects to identify distinctive characteristics.

**Divide:** Separate people, groups, places, events, ideas, or things so that each one is placed into a category.

**Draft:** An unfinished version of a creative work.

**Effect:** A specific result or outcome produced by something said or done by a person, group, event, idea, or thing.

**Introduction:** The beginning of a work that leads into the main body of the work.

**Paragraph:** A group of sentences focusing on one idea or concept, which begins on a new line and ends with a return to a new line.

**Summarize:** Explain the main points and important details of an author's ideas.



**Transition:** Movement from one idea or concept to another in a creative work.



## Exploration

### Learning from the Web

The concluding paragraph summarizes the main points of an essay. The conclusion contains the last words your audience will read, so you want it to be memorable. Explore some Web sites about writing an effective concluding paragraph and learn how to write a clear and satisfying conclusion to your expository essay.

While you explore the following Web sites, think about the guiding questions. You may want to take notes to help you answer the questions. If you think of other questions about writing effective concluding paragraphs, keep those in mind too.

### Guiding Questions

- What are the important parts of an effective concluding paragraph?
- What are the common characteristics of effective concluding paragraphs?
- How can you make sure your audience remembers your essay?

### Web Sites

- [Conclusion](#)\* from [Essay Info](#)\*
- [Conclusion](#)\* from [Essay Start](#)\*
- [Writing a Conclusion](#)\* from [Orange Unified School District](#)\*



## Information

### What to Know

This page summarizes some of the information from the Web sites you explored. This information helps you learn what you need to know for this activity about writing an effective concluding paragraph. You may want to take notes to help you remember the most important points. You can return to the Web sites for more exploration if you want to learn more.

### How to Write an Effective Concluding Paragraph

After you have written body paragraphs to explain your topic thoroughly, you should write a concluding paragraph that summarizes your topic. A good conclusion will leave your audience with a clear and satisfying conclusion that stays in their memories.

Most expository essays have one concluding paragraph, but this is just a guideline. In rare cases, an expository essay may not even require a concluding paragraph. Most concluding paragraphs typically include about three to five sentences, but again this is just a guideline.

Effective concluding paragraphs usually have some common characteristics:

- **Reminds readers what the essay has explained.** The concluding paragraph summarizes the topic in very concise terms. A concluding paragraph should never introduce new points that have not been developed in the body. You should also avoid repeating the same words you used in the body. Summarize the main points in new words with new transitions. Some transition words you may be able to use in the conclusion include: in conclusion, in summary, in short, on the whole, overall, in brief, briefly, concisely, succinctly, clearly, evidently, plainly, obviously, and undoubtedly. If you summarize your main points effectively, you should not need too many transition words.
- **Offers readers a new viewpoint or insight.** Although the concluding paragraph should not introduce content, you should try to synthesize the main points you developed in the essay. Synthesis involves combining your main points into a new idea or concept. The synthesis tells readers what you learned about your topic. You should always emphasize, but not exaggerate, the importance and relevance of the synthesis. An effective synthesis causes readers to look at your topic in a new way.
- **Make a lasting impression on readers.** The last sentence of the concluding paragraph should stay in the reader's memory. Think about how you engaged the reader in the essay with your introduction. You may be able to expand on the same approach in the conclusion. Sometimes, the conclusion challenges the reader to do or think about something in the future. In some cases, it may be effective to leave the reader with a new question to consider.



# Task

## What to Do

Complete the following task to show what you have learned about writing effective concluding paragraphs. While you work through the task, think about whether you are achieving the goal. You may want to review an example of a concluding paragraph before you begin.

**Task:** Draft a concluding paragraph for your expository essay.

**Goal:** Show that you can summarize and synthesize your essay in a memorable conclusion.

**See the example:** [Concluding Paragraph](#)

### Help Guide

Use the Intel® Education Help Guide to learn technology skills.

**Word Processing**  
Type and change words

[Search the Help Guide](#)

1. Open the word processing document that contains the draft of your expository essay.
2. Use your essay outline to draft the conclusion of your expository essay.
3. Remember to save your document frequently while you work.
4. Read your concluding paragraph to make sure it summarizes and synthesizes your essay in a memorable way. Check with your teacher if you are not sure your concluding paragraph is effective.
5. Review the checklist and revise your concluding paragraph to make sure it is complete.
6. Save your document.
7. Share your concluding paragraph.



## Task Example

Student name

Date

### Concluding Paragraph

We now know that humans are causing the world to heat up by the burning of fossil fuels, so it is going to be the responsibility of all countries around the world, to do their part. Global warming has been blamed on everything from the melting of the polar ice caps to the increase in devastating storms, the loss of coral to the changing migration habits of the animal kingdom. According the IPCC report, even if people stopped burning the fossil fuels today, which are responsible for global warming, the effects would not go away in our lifetime. Therefore, if we do not want to go the way of the dinosaurs, it is going to be the responsibility of all of us, to do our part, to slow down the warming of our planet.