

Conclusion Examples for the To Kill a Mockingbird Character Analysis Essay

What Do I Put In My Conclusion? Why Write a Conclusion?:

Conclusions are often the most difficult part of an essay to write, and many writers feel that they have nothing left to say after having written the paper. A writer needs to keep in mind that the conclusion is often what a reader remembers best. Your conclusion should be the best part of your paper.

A conclusion should

- stress the importance of the thesis statement,
- give the essay a sense of completeness, and
- leave a final impression on the reader.
- NEVER write "In conclusion. . ."

Suggestions

- **Answer the question "So What?"**

Show your readers why this paper was important. Show them that your paper was meaningful and useful.

- **Synthesize, don't summarize**
 - Don't simply repeat things that were in your paper. They have read it. Show them how the points you made and the support and examples you used were not random, but fit together.
- **Redirect your readers**
 - Give your reader something to think about, perhaps a way to use your paper in the "real" world. If your introduction went from general to specific, make your conclusion go from specific to general. Think globally.
- **Create a new meaning**
 - You don't have to give new information to create a new meaning. By demonstrating how your ideas work together, you can create a new picture. Often the sum of the paper is worth more than its parts.

TURN OVER FOR EXAMPLES:

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Strategies

Echoing the introduction: Echoing your introduction can be a good strategy if it is meant to bring the reader full-circle. If you begin by describing a scenario, you can end with the same scenario as proof that your essay was helpful in creating a new understanding. Or, if you begin with a quotation by Atticus, for example, you could end with another powerful quotation by Atticus.

EXAMPLE: Scout Finch, a seeker of adventure and mockingbirds, teaches her readers how to grow up during troubled times; the Great Depression, the Tom Robinson case, and the Boo Radley incidents help define this emotional, inquisitive, and dynamic girl. Although America recovered by slowly creeping away from the grim conditions of the Great Depression and began to cleanse itself of the ugliness of racism, its past should not be forgotten. Just as Scout learns that Boo Radley is nothing to fear after experiencing his life first as fiction then as truth, America must learn from Her mistakes. Jean Louis "Scout" Finch reminds her readers that our parent's can be our greatest teachers when she reflects, "Atticus was right. One time he said you never really know a man until you stand in his shoes and walk around in them" (Lee 374).

Be profound: Leave the reader thinking about the character's connection to life today. In other words, not only was Dill an important character in the novel, he is important today because he represents the life of a neglected child. Unfortunately, neglected children are everywhere today.

EXAMPLE: Although Mayella Ewell was only present in To Kill a Mockingbird for a short time, it is easy to tell how truly abused, isolated, and sensitive this girl was. Mayella was truly unlikeable to not only the reader but to other characters. However, not all of her behavior is her fault. If she did not have such a horrible father, or perhaps if her mother was still alive, then Mayella would have had a very different life and personality. She would probably have an actual life and Tom Robinson would still be alive. That day in the courtroom, she condemned herself to a life of embarrassment and solitude. If she had spoken up then she would have had a better future ahead of her. Even if her father disappears from her life, the past is the past, and as hard as we may try, we cannot change it. Mayella's character serves as a reminder to this hard truth: our parents raise us, our parents shape us—without them we are nobody; with them we are either blessed or doomed.

EXAMPLE: Scout Finch, a seeker of adventure and mockingbirds, teaches her readers how to grow up during troubled times; the Great Depression, the Tom Robinson case, and the Boo Radley incidents help define this emotional, inquisitive, and dynamic girl. Although America recovered by slowly creeping away from the grim conditions of the Great Depression and began to cleanse itself of the ugliness of racism, its past should not be forgotten. Just as Scout learns that Boo Radley is nothing to fear after experiencing his life first as fiction then as truth, America must learn from Her mistakes. Jean Louis "Scout" Finch reminds her readers what it was like to be young and curious from a child's perspective-- a point-of-view which should always reflect the lessons discovered in childhood.

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Remind the reader of the character's significance: Show how important your character is to the novel without using your body paragraph examples. Go beyond the body paragraphs.

EXAMPLE: Atticus demonstrates that he is fair, compassionate, and courageous throughout the novel. He teaches the reader that people should not think anything less of other people just because of the color of their skin. He began to create a path toward equality—a path which would not have been expected back in the time of the Great Depression. In the 1930s, racism was prevalent, and no one would have taken a black man's side over a white man's. Even though Atticus knew he was not going to win the case, he still defended Tom Robinson, which showed how good of a person he really was. If he did not make an impression on every person in Maycomb through his actions, he certainly taught his children what it means to love and respect people of all races. He showed the reader that it does not matter what is on the outside; on the inside is what counts.