

# Writing an Essay: Conclusions

Note: These reference guides do not take the place of assignment guidelines



Conclusions work with an essay's thesis to create a framework for a proposed argument. Strong conclusions tie together the thesis and the supporting evidence proposed throughout the essay. Instead of summarizing what has already been said or restating the thesis, conclusions should synthesize the claims and examples provided throughout the paper into a broader final point. By doing this, the conclusion provides a sense of closure to the essay, while simultaneously inviting future research and further avenues of thought regarding the topic.

## Summarizing Vs Synthesizing

A **Summary conclusion** only restates the points that have already been explored within the essay in a more condensed manner. These kinds of conclusions are not recommended because they don't tie your argument together, nor do they make a final claim. A **synthesis conclusion**, on the other hand, brings all the points of the essay together to make one final, main takeaway claim. Put another way, a summary only answers the question "What is this paper about?" Synthesis answers the question "Why does this paper *matter*?" The examples below offer conclusions that first summarize, and then synthesize, an essay written using the following thesis statement:

"Godzilla is a better monster than King Kong because he has more overall strength and endurance, is better at problem solving, and is more well-known by modern movie attendees."

## Weak Conclusion

In conclusion, Godzilla is a better choice for a movie monster because he is stronger than King Kong, is better able to deal with dangerous situations and problems, and will be more familiar to a modern audience. Godzilla is also aquatic, which is more exciting for modern movies and gives directors the option of setting a Godzilla movie in a submarine. Overall, Godzilla is a better monster than King Kong.



In this conclusion, the author begins by rephrasing the thesis statement. While this is not a direct re-statement of the thesis, it does not offer any suggestion of what arguments were made in the body paragraphs regarding the thesis statement's main claims or how they tie together at the end. Additionally, it is recommended that you do not introduce any new information to your essay within the conclusion. The point about Godzilla being aquatic is not addressed in the paper's claims (as introduced by the thesis), so it can be confusing when it suddenly appears at the end. Ultimately, this conclusion ends with the same claim that the paper started with: that "Godzilla is a better monster than King Kong."

## Strong Conclusion

Although King Kong possesses some noteworthy abilities, he is simply less familiar to modern audiences than Godzilla. Given Godzilla's overall superior physical abilities, which allow him to move on land and sea, and an intelligence that lets him fight off the military, there is no doubt that he is the best monster in comparison to all the other legendary creatures. Filmmakers considering making the next blockbuster monster film would be wise to consider creating a monster that can surpass Godzilla.



In this conclusion, the author begins right away with a transition that reminds the reader of one of the arguments made within the essay. The author then reminds the reader of the original thesis by mentioning Godzilla's "superior physical abilities" and "intelligence," but does so by mentioning the specific claims that were argued in regard to these traits—that Godzilla is able to "move on land and sea" and "fight off the military." Rather than simply restating the thesis statement, the author is offering a more developed version of the thesis that references the analysis made in the body paragraphs. This allows the author to end with a final takeaway point: "Filmmakers considering making the next blockbuster monster film would be wise to consider creating a monster that can surpass Godzilla." Rather than just telling the reader that the paper is about Godzilla, the author tells the reader that their argument matters because it can impact which monsters are chosen when future movies are being made.