

Conclusions

Why are conclusions so important?

Conclusions are important to summarize the thesis and main ideas of an essay, as well as to provide an appropriate and memorable ending.

Conclusion Strategies

- **Frame the essay** by linking the conclusion to the introduction. If the essay started with an anecdote or story, provide the ending in the conclusion. If you asked an initial question, provide the answer. Refer back to striking facts, statistics, or a vivid image introduced previously.
- **Summarize** the main points and/or restate the thesis at the end of a straightforward essay, an exam answer, or a technical paper. A summary lets the audience hear the major points one final time, and it is a good strategy to use when the primary purpose is to convey specific information.
- **Quotations** from a source already cited in a paper can add authority and interest to concluding remarks. However, new information should not be introduced, and quotations should be tied into the writer's own concluding ideas.
- **Recommendations for a Course of Action** may be appropriate when the purpose is to persuade readers. What would you like the reader to do with the information you have provided?
- **Prediction** may be used to sum up major points as well as make a projection based on those points. What is the expected outcome of the information provided in the paper?
- **A Chronological Conclusion** may be used to bring the reader up to date when an essay tells a story or recounts a series of events. What is the current situation?

