

## Conclusion Paragraphs

An effective **conclusion paragraph** provides a succinct review of the essay and leaves readers with something important to remember.

### Review + Future

Make a concerted effort to look backward *and* forward in your conclusion. In looking backward, you may return to some image or other motif in the introduction, restate the thesis, or summarize the main points. This is necessary for the reader's sense of completeness.

- A **review** of the essay entails restating the thesis or reviewing the essay's main points. Writers must consider the importance of each point in the essay as it relates to the essay's overall meaning. Restating the thesis does not simply mean *repeating*; the writer should instead *emphasize* the essay's main points by re-stating them.

In looking forward, you may forecast the future, make a call for action, discuss implications, or reinforce the significance of your essay.

- In **forecasting the future**, the writer makes an educated prediction based upon the evidence laid forth in the paper.
- A **call to action** is a tool the writer may use to inspire and encourage the audience to act upon the "big picture" value that drives the essay.
- **Discuss implications** to further clarify potential benefits, consequences, or significant impact.
- **Reinforce significance** by speaking to the "big picture" value of the work you have done. In other words, why was it worth your time to write this essay and why was it worth the audience's time to read it?

### Ask yourself ...

- ☒ Have you avoided introducing new ideas and evidence?
- ☒ Have you restated your thesis and/or reviewed your main points?
- ☒ Have you addressed the future in a meaningful way?
- ☒ Do you leave the reader with something important to remember?