

WRITING THE CONCLUSION

Knowing how to end a paper can be tough. You don't want to start a new topic, nor do you want to rehash everything you've just said. While it is common to have a small summary of your main ideas or findings at the end of your paper, there are other strategies you can use to make your conclusion stronger and leave your reader with a lasting impression.

WHAT DO YOU WRITE IN A CONCLUSION?

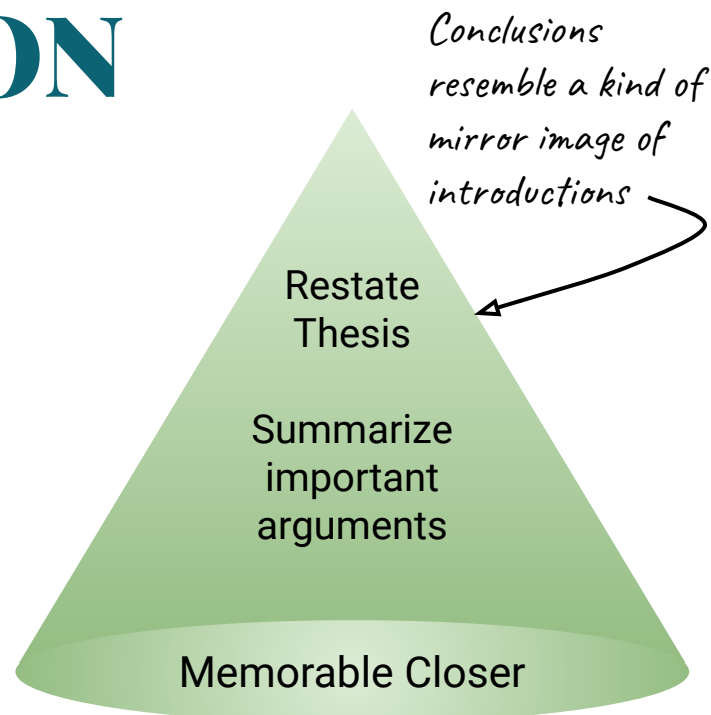
Summarize your main ideas (without adding new support for your thesis).

Make **recommendations** or **predictions** based on your research or analysis.

Show the importance of your ideas or findings by **connecting** them to a larger theme, issue, or context.

Discuss the **implications** of your ideas.

Describe the **limitations** of your research and indicate an area(s) for future development.



WHAT DOES YOUR CONCLUSION DO?

Draws your most important ideas together and provides closure.

Presents a more complex or developed view of your thesis.

Shows why your ideas are significant or important.

Leaves your reader with something to think about.

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Recommendation:

Treating academic integrity as a constellation of skills, taught largely through the long apprenticeship of higher education, is the most promising approach for getting students to follow the rules of academic citation, and the one with the least likelihood of providing a shortcut. That means teaching students what academic integrity involves, why professors value it, and how exactly to carry it out.”
Source: Blum, Susan D. “Academic Integrity and Student Plagiarism: a Question of Education, Not Ethics. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. The Chronicle of Higher Education, 20 Feb. 2009. Web. 13 Jan. 2011.

Importance of ideas and connection to larger themes:

In the end, it seems, *Good Bye Lenin!* wants to value the dream, the utopia of ideal socialism, especially because with the advent of Western capitalism into East Germany, one source of that dream has been desiccated.

But the film takes great pains to qualify that dream—to distinguish it from East German Communist practice, and crucially, to insist that we recognize that it is only a dream and not the real thing. That is why Lara tells Kathrin the truth. In the spiraling success story of a newly reunited Germany, Wolfgang Becker has made a film that reminds us that the stories we tell others fill psychic needs not just for others but for ourselves, and that we need to be reminded that all stories, however necessary, in one way or another are false.
Source: Rossenwasser, David and Jill Stephen. *Writing Analytically with Readings*. United States: Thompson/Wadsworth, 2008. Print.

Recommendation and importance of findings:

If we are going to take on the formidable challenge of further integrating 12 million mostly poor immigrants, we have to provide better public schools, a more affordable college education, healthcare, and jobs that offer a decent

wage and benefits so that their children are able to rejuvenate the American dream. The real threat is not that immigrants will fail to buy into what’s essential to American identity, but that we will fall short in providing them the tools to do so.
Source: Jimenez, Tomas R. “The Next Americans.” Ed. Gary Goshgarian. *Readings for Today*. New York: Pearson, 2008. 355-59. Print.

Summary, quotation, and recommendation:

Employees’ right to privacy and autonomy in the workplace, however, remains a murky area of the law. Although evaluating where to draw the line between employee rights and employer powers is often a duty that falls to the judicial system, the courts have shown little willingness to intrude on employers’ exercise of control over their computer networks. Federal law provides few guidelines related to online monitoring of employees, and only Connecticut and Delaware require companies

SAMPLE CONCLUSIONS

to disclose this type of surveillance to employees (Tam et al.). “It is unlikely that we will see a legally guaranteed zone of privacy in the American workplace,” predicts Kesan (293). This reality leaves employees and employers to sort the potential risks and benefits of technology in contract agreements and terms of employment. With continuing advancements in technology, protecting both employers and employees will require greater awareness of these programs, better disclosure to employees, and a more public discussion about what types of protections are necessary to guard individual freedoms in the wired workplace.

Source: Sample MLA paper. *A Canadian Writer’s Reference*. 4th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2009. Print.

Summary, limitations, areas for further research, and recommendations:

As the data above show, there is no evidence that these species practise any variation in diving time or frequency of dives, or that any

species directly and intentionally interact. Surprisingly, the data do seem to show that activities do not begin until mid-morning. When we arrived, about 8 a.m., a large percentage of the birds were still sleeping. Once the birds awaken, it appears as though they ritually preen themselves before feeding. With the exception of human-induced movements, it appeared that there were no significant interactions between any of the species. As may have been expected, the Buffleheads also appeared to be courting at times. The data above also show that the majority of the birds that were paired or followed by the other sex were Buffleheads.

Adjustments for Future Research

In order to refine this study, it would be advantageous to develop a better, easier method to follow each individual bird. I found that it was very difficult to follow a diving duck for prolonged periods of time. Also, looking through a monocular spotting

scope for 10-minute segments can be very aggravating. It would also be advantageous to get closer to the birds being observed. Finally, the study time is possibly too long. It should be possible to observe more specimens and get a better sampling in half the time. Source: Sample Field Report. *The Writer’s Harbrace Handbook*. 1st Canadian ed. United States: Thompson/Nelson, 2007. Print.

Tip: Treat your conclusion as a final chance to pitch your case to your reader. Assume, for example, that your reader hasn’t been especially attentive and you have an opportunity to restate the most important part of your case in a few words at the end.