

Concluding Paragraphs

The purpose of the final paragraph is to bring the essay to a smooth conclusion. Similar to the last page in a children's book, or at the end of an old movie, it is a way of saying, "The End!"

Words and phrases that signal that the end is near:

Accordingly	It should now be clear
As a result	On the whole
As I have shown	Now
Consequently	Summing up
Finally	Therefore
Hence	Thus
In brief	To conclude
In conclusion	To sum up
In consequence	

Types of Concluding Paragraphs

1. Restating the Main Points

Restate the key ideas, but use different wording. The challenge is to say the same thing but not the same way.

2. The Future/Suggestions for Action

Discuss what should happen next. Depending on the topic, you might do some guessing about what the future may bring, or suggest that the reader could seek even further information.

3. Questions

Whether or not "questions" were used in the introduction, they can be used in the conclusion. If they were used, more can be asked. If they were not used to start, the end is a perfect time.

4. Personal Comment or Anecdote

If this technique wasn't used in the introductory paragraph it makes an effective conclusion. If it was used earlier, it can be reworded. Perhaps best of all is the technique of completing the comment or anecdote at the end of the essay.

5. Cyclic Return

The cyclic return performs the function of returning to the beginning of the cycle. The essay writer reminds the reader where this particular journey began. The main points may be restated, questions asked initially may be answered, a story begun may be finished, a quote given may be followed up with a comment.

Concluding Paragraphs Exercise

Certain skills are required to write the types of conclusions you have studied. Beneath each skill listed below, write the “type of conclusion” for which that skill is best suited:

1. Being able to complete a circle, or to return to the place where you began.

2. Thinking of ways to get the reader involved in doing something after reading the essay.

3. Sharing a real-life experience or telling a story to help sum up your topic.

4. Asking the reader to do something or to think about something.

5. Saying what you have already said but in different words.
