

UW-MADISON SOURCE WITH EXAMPLES:

<https://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/Conclusions.html>

WRITING CONCLUSIONS:

Definition

The conclusion is intended to help the reader understand why your research should matter to them after they have finished reading the paper. **A conclusion is not merely a summary of the main topics covered or a re-statement of your research problem, but a synthesis of key points and, if applicable, where you recommend new areas for future research.** For most essays, one well-developed paragraph is sufficient for a conclusion, although in some cases, a two or three paragraph conclusion may be required.

[Conclusions](#). The Writing Center. University of North Carolina; [Conclusions](#). The Writing Lab and The OWL. Purdue University.

Importance of a Good Conclusion

A well-written conclusion provides you with important opportunities to demonstrate to the reader your understanding of the research problem. These include:

1. **Presenting the last word on the issues** you raised in your paper. Just as the introduction gives a first impression to your reader, the conclusion offers a chance to leave a lasting impression. Do this, for example, by highlighting key findings in your analysis or result section or by noting important or unexpected implications applied to practice.
2. Summarizing your thoughts and conveying the larger significance of your study. The conclusion is an opportunity to succinctly answer [or in some cases, to re-emphasize] the **"So What?"** question by placing the study within the context of how your research advances past research about the topic.
3. **not relevant for this paper (Identifying how a gap in the literature has been addressed. The conclusion can be where you describe how a previously identified gap in the literature [described in your literature review section] has been filled by your research.)*
4. **Demonstrating the importance of your ideas.** Don't be shy. The conclusion offers you the opportunity to elaborate on the impact and significance of your findings.
5. Introducing possible new or expanded ways of thinking about the research problem. This does not refer to introducing new information [which should be avoided], but to **offer new insight and creative approaches for framing or contextualizing the research problem based on the results of your study.**

Bunton, David. "The Structure of PhD Conclusion Chapters." *Journal of English for Academic Purposes* 4 (July 2005): 207–224; [Conclusions](#). The Writing Center. University of North Carolina; Kretchmer, Paul. [Twelve Steps to Writing an Effective Conclusion](#). San Francisco Edit, 2003-2008; [Conclusions](#). The Writing Lab and The OWL. Purdue University.

