

Concluding the Paper 1:

Your conclusion, much like your introduction, should be short. Summarize your main points and how these points build towards your thesis statement. This may be all you have time for at the end of a Paper 1 essay, but if the process of writing the commentary has prompted you to think more deeply about the purpose or meaning of the text and you may want to add a thought about that here by asking yourself; Why does it matter? What are the implications?

Suggestions for how to make a powerful statement with your conclusions:

- Avoid phrases like "in conclusion," "to conclude," "in summary," and "to sum up." Conclude by linking the last paragraph to the first, perhaps by reiterating a word or phrase you used at the beginning, to neatly tie the essay up. (
 - Simple language can help create an effect of understated drama.
 - Conclude by setting your discussion into a different, perhaps larger, context. For example, if "To Kill A Mockingbird" centers on blatant racial problems with the criminal justice system, you could discuss aspects of that small town controversy that still exist today.
 - Conclude by considering the implications* of your analysis. What does your argument involve or suggest? For example, an essay on the autobiography *Educated* by Tara Westover, might open with the idea that her higher educational development resulted in widening the emotional gap between her and her family.
- (Adapted from the Harvard Writing Center)

Questions to ask yourself that may help you write the conclusion:

To find your own "now what" for your essay's conclusion, try asking yourself these questions:

*the conclusion that can be drawn from something although it is not explicitly stated.
Adapted from: <https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/conclusions>

- What can my readers now understand, see in a new light, that they would not have understood in the same way before reading my paper? Are we a step closer to understanding a larger phenomenon or to understanding why what was at stake is important?
- What questions can I now raise that would not have made sense at the beginning of my paper?
- What action should be taken in light of this argument?
- What larger context might my argument be a part of?