

Writing Conclusions to Essays

Your conclusion wraps up your essay in a tidy package.

What To Include

1. Restate thesis. Use this as a topic sentence. It should communicate the same idea but not use the same sentence structure as your thesis

- This suggests to your reader that you have accomplished what you set out to accomplish
- Rephrase the thesis statement with fresh and deeper understanding

2. Restate your three reasons. Combine these into one sentence or use three separate sentences.

- Wrap up these three main points/reasons.
- State the importance of each

3. Big Conclusion.

- Play the 'So What Game.'
 - Ask yourself, 'so what?' and then 'why should anyone care?' about your thesis and the reasons and examples you gave.
 - Think about these questions and then answer it.
 - Ex. Thesis – Education was important to Frederick Douglass.
 - So what?
 - Well, it was important because it was a key to him feeling like a free and equal person.
 - Why should anyone care?
 - Well, it was important because plantation owners tried to keep slaves from being educated so that they could have control. When Douglass got an education, he was able to weaken that control.
 - Ah ha! That is my conclusion about my thesis! And it beats a 'meow' ending.

Conclusion Formula

Topic sentence

- Fresh rephrasing of thesis statement

Supporting sentences

- Summarize or wrap up the main points in the body of the essay
- Explain how ideas fit together

Big Conclusion

- The 'so what' of the essay

Closing sentence

- Final words
- Connects back to the introduction
- Provides a sense of closure