

Conclusion writing

How to Write a good Conclusion to your report

In a conclusion paragraph, you summarize what you've written about in your report. When you're writing a good conclusion paragraph, you need to think about the main point that you want to get across and be sure it's included. If you've already written a fabulous introductory paragraph, you can write something similar with different wording. Here are some points to remember:

- *Use your introductory paragraph as a guide.*
- *If it's a longer paper, a good place to start is by looking at what each paragraph was about.*
- *Leave your readers with something to think about. Suggest that they learn more with a sentence like, "We have a lot to learn about water quality methods." You can also give them something to do after reading your paper.*

Summary: How to Make a Good Conclusion Paragraph

Remember that it's important to wrap up your writing by summarizing the main idea for your readers. This brings your writing to a smooth close and creates a well-written piece of work.

What is a conclusion paragraph?

- A conclusion is what you will leave with your reader
- It "wraps up" your essay
- It demonstrates to the reader that you accomplished what you set out to do
- It shows how you have proved your thesis
- It provides the reader with a sense of closure on the topic

Structure

- A conclusion is the opposite of the introduction
- Remember that the introduction begins general and ends specific
- The conclusion begins specific and moves to the general

What to include

- Your conclusion wraps up your essay in a tidy package and brings it home for your reader
- Your topic sentence should summarize what you said in your report statement
 - This suggests to your reader that you have accomplished what you set out to accomplish
- Do not simply restate your report statement, as that would be redundant
 - Rephrase the report statement with fresh and deeper understanding
- Your conclusion is no place to bring up new ideas
- Your supporting sentences should summarize what you have already said in the body of your essay
 - If a brilliant idea tries to sneak into the final paragraph, you must pluck it out and let it have its own paragraph in the body, or leave it out completely
- Your topic for each body paragraph should be summarized in the conclusion
 - Wrap up the main points
- Your closing sentence should help the reader feel a sense of closure
- Your closing sentence is your last word on the subject;
 - Demonstrate the importance of your ideas
 - Propel your reader to a new view of the subject
 - End on a positive note
- Your closing sentence should make your readers glad they read your report.

Strategies for an effective conclusion

- Play the “So What” Game.
 - When you read a statement from the conclusion, ask yourself, “So what?” or “Why should anybody care?”
 - Ponder that question and answer it
- Return to the theme or themes in the introduction
 - This brings the reader full circle
 - If you begin by describing a scenario, you can end with the same scenario as proof that your essay is helpful in creating a new understanding
 - Refer to the introductory paragraph by using key words, or parallel concepts and images that you also used in the introduction
- Summarize

- Include a brief summary of the report's main points, but don't simply repeat things that were in the report
- Pull it all together
 - Show your reader how the points you made and the support and examples you used fit together
- Include a provocative insight or quotation from the research or reading you did for the report
- Propose a course of action, a solution to an issue, or questions for further study
- Point to broader implications

Concluding strategies that do not work

- Beginning with an unnecessary, overused phrase
- These may work in speeches, but they come across as wooden and trite in writing
 - "In conclusion"
 - "In summary"
 - "as shown in the essay"
- Stating the thesis for the very first time
- Introducing a new idea or subtopic in your conclusion
- Making sentimental, emotional appeals that are out of character with the rest of the report.

Conclusion outline

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

The research report describes an entire experiment or research from start to finish, describing procedures, reporting results and analysing data. The report is used to demonstrate what has been learned. The conclusion is an integral part of the report; this is the section that reiterates the experiment's main findings and gives the reader an overview of the research findings. Demonstrate that you've effectively learned the objectives of your assignment by writing a solid conclusion to your research report.

Key Steps

Outlining your Conclusion - Review your assignment.

Verify that you've accomplished all the parts of your assignment so that you can properly address them in the conclusion. Take a few moments to make a list of what you're supposed to demonstrate or learn in the experiment or research.

Revisit your introduction.

To make sure your conclusion is consistent with the rest of your report, revisit your report's introduction. This is a good tactic to help you brainstorm exactly what you'd like to say in your conclusion.

Use the RERUN method.

Start mapping out the different elements of your conclusion by using the RERUN method. The RERUN method can be a useful structure overall for a short report, but it is especially useful for providing a conclusion to your report that reviews the experiment's important components.

RERUN stands for:

Restate: Restate the research experiment. Describe the assignment.

Explain: Explain the purpose of the research. What were you looking for? Talk briefly about the procedure you followed to complete the research.

Results: Explain your results. Confirm whether or not your hypothesis was supported by the results.

Uncertainties: Account for uncertainties and errors. Explain, for example, if there were other circumstances beyond your control that impacted the experiment.

New: Discuss new questions or discoveries that emerged from the experiment.

Plan other sections to add. The RERUN method is a good start, but there may be other components that you should include. It's a good idea to talk about what you've learned in the experiment. You might also want to situate your research within the overall research field, or how you can relate the findings to concepts you're learning in class. Your assignment may also have specific questions that need to be answered. Make sure you answer these fully and coherently in your conclusion.

Discussing the Research and Hypothesis

Introduce the experiment in your conclusion. Start out the conclusion by providing a brief overview of the experiment. Describe the experiment in a few sentences and discuss the objective of the experiment. Also make sure to include your manipulated, controlled and responding variables.

Restate your procedures. Give a brief summary of the process that you went through with your experiment. Give an overview of the experiment, which will help the reader visualize what you did. If you tried an experiment more than once, describe the reasons for doing so. Discuss changes that you made in your procedures.

Brainstorm ways to explain your results in more depth. Go back through your little research notes, paying particular attention to the results you observed. Briefly describe what you discovered. In a few sentences, summarize the results that you arrived at in your experiment. Summarize the data here; don't include all of the results. Start this section with wording such as, "The results showed that..."

You don't need to give the raw data here. Just summarize the main points, calculate averages, or give a range of data to give an overall picture to the reader. Comment on whether or not your hypothesis is supported. Your hypothesis is a statement that describes what the expected outcome will be. The hypothesis forms the basis of your research and experiment and drives the parts of your process. Restate your hypothesis and then state clearly and concisely whether or not your hypothesis has been supported by the experiment. Was the experiment a success? Use simple language such as, "The results supported the hypothesis," or "The results did not support the hypothesis."

Link your results to your hypothesis. The results of your experiment have determined whether or not the hypothesis is supported. After noting this in your report, comment further

by describing the meaning of your experiment's results. Clarify why the results indicate a supported hypothesis or not.

Demonstrating What You Have Learned

Describe what you learned in the research. You may be asked to demonstrate a particular scientific principle or theory. If this is the case, your conclusion should reflect that. If it's not clear in your conclusion what you learned from the research, start off by writing, "In this research, I learned..." This will give the reader a heads up that you will be describing exactly what you learned. Add details about what you learned and how you learned it. Adding dimension to your learning outcomes will convince your reader that you did, in fact, learn from the research. Give specifics about how you learned that molecules will act in a particular environment, for example. Describe how what you learned in the research could be applied to a future experiment. Answer specific questions given in the assignment. Your teacher or supervisor may have listed certain questions in the assignment that need to be answered. On a new line, write the question in italics. On the next line, write the answer to the question in regular text. Explain whether you achieved the experiment's objectives. The introduction to your research report should have stated certain objectives that you hoped to achieve with this experiment. Revisit these objectives in the conclusion to make sure that you are addressing them sufficiently.

Wrapping Up Your Conclusion

Describe possible errors that may have occurred. To provide an accurate depiction of the report research, describe errors that may have happened in the course of the experiment. This will add credibility to your experiment and results. Talk about uncertainties. There may be uncontrollable circumstances that impact your experiment, such as weather changes or unavailability of a certain supply. Discuss these uncertainties and their potential impact on the overall experiment. If your experiment raised questions that your collected data can't answer, discuss this here. Propose future experiments. In light of what you learned in your experiment, give recommendations on the design of future experiments. What could be changed to elicit more reliable or valid results? Funding? Time? Etc.

Propose additional questions that arise. Sometimes, scientific research trials will generate more questions than answers. If this is the case in your research, you can discuss these in the conclusion in the context for future research. Relate your research to another research done before. Particularly for more advanced research reports, you may choose to discuss how your

research adds to the research in the field. Visualize all research on your topic as a brick wall, and your own research is one brick in that wall. How does your research fit within the overall scheme of things? Describe what is new or innovative about your research. This can often set you apart from your classmates, many of whom will just write up the barest of discussion and conclusion. Add a final statement. Wrap up the entire conclusion – and the entire report – with a statement that summarizes the scope of the research report and the most important conclusions. Alternately, speculate on future uses for the research. Here is your chance to make an insightful comment that will set your research report apart from others.

Finalizing Your research Report

Write in the third person. Avoid using “I,” “we” or “me” in your research report. Instead, use language such as, “The hypothesis was supported...”

Read through the full report.

Once you’ve finalized your conclusion, read through the entire report to make sure it is logical. Watch for any places where you might contradict yourself, and correct these instances. Your conclusion should reiterate what you learned from the experiment and how you came to understand these learning outcomes. Proofread your report. Check for spelling and grammatical errors in your report. A report that contains errors can inadvertently decrease the report’s reliability. Take the time to ensure your report is error-free.

Reference

Conclusion: Reading Dissidence/Writing the Discipline: Crisis and the Question of Sovereignty in
International Studies

Richard K. Ashley and R. B. J. Walker

Academic Writing from Paragraph to Essay by Abdul Halim Khan