

Why Conclusions Matter

Conclusions can significantly influence how readers feel about your paper. Just as introductions draw readers into your work, conclusions help them transition back to their daily lives, highlighting the importance of your analysis.

The Function of a Conclusion

A good conclusion:

- Summarizes your main points without simply repeating them
- Synthesizes your thoughts and shows their significance
- Leaves a lasting impression
- Encourages readers to see the broader implications of your work



Getting Started: Some Tips

1. **Play the “So What” Game:** Ask a friend to read your conclusion. Whenever you state a point, have them ask, “So what?” This helps you explain why your points matter.
2. **Return to Your Introduction:** Refer back to themes or scenarios from your introduction to create a sense of full circle.
3. **Synthesize, Don’t Summarize:** Briefly summarize your points, but focus on showing how they fit together and their overall significance.
4. **Include a Provocative Insight or Quotation:** Use a striking quote or insight from your research to leave a lasting impression.
5. **Propose Actions or Questions for Further Study:** Suggest practical applications, solutions, or future research questions.
6. **Point to Broader Implications:** Highlight the larger significance of your findings.

Strategies to Avoid

- Starting with clichés like “in conclusion” or “in summary.”
- Introducing new ideas or subtopics.
- Simply rephrasing your thesis without adding new insight.
- Making emotional appeals that don’t fit the rest of your paper.
- Including evidence that belongs in the body of the paper.



Four Ineffective Conclusion Types

- The “That’s My Story” Conclusion: Just restates the thesis without pushing the ideas forward.
- The “Sherlock Holmes” Conclusion: Introduces the thesis for the first time, creating unnecessary suspense.
- The “Emotional” Conclusion: Relies on emotional appeals rather than logical synthesis.
- The “Grab Bag” Conclusion: Adds random, unrelated information, causing confusion.

SAMPLE CONCLUSION

At first glance, AI might seem like just another step forward in technology, making everyday life a little faster and easier. But when looking more closely, it becomes clear that its growing role reaches far beyond convenience. The same systems that recommend what to watch or help with scheduling are also deciding who gets hired, who is flagged by police software, and whose data is being collected and sold. These hidden decisions have real consequences. Returning to that original sense of AI becoming part of daily life, the question is no longer just about what AI can do. It is about what kind of future people are allowing it to create, and whether that future includes fairness, transparency, and responsibility.

Why It Works

- **Summarizes without repeating:** Recaps core ideas in a fresh way.
- **Synthesizes ideas:** Connects everyday AI use to deeper ethical concerns..
- **Leaves a lasting impression:** Ends with a thought-provoking reflection on human responsibility.
- **Shows broader implications:** Highlights how AI shapes the future based on human values.