

7. 结论、摘要和题目

写好结论

Conclusions

- A research paper conclusion is one of the most important parts of writing a complete paper.
- The conclusion is the last chance the author processes to convince the reader of his and her argument.
- Depending on the type of paper required, the conclusion may need to fit somewhat different requirements.

How to Write a Conclusion for a Research Paper

- The conclusion of a research paper needs to summarize the content and purpose of the paper without seeming too wooden or dry. Every basic conclusion must share several key elements, but there are also several tactics you can play around with to craft a more effective conclusion and several you should avoid in order to prevent yourself from weakening your paper's conclusion.
- Here are some writing tips to keep in mind when creating the conclusion for your next research paper.

Restate the topic

- You should briefly restate the topic as well as explaining why it is important. Do not spend a great amount of time or space restating your topic.
 - A good research paper will make the importance of your topic apparent, so you do not need to write an elaborate defense of your topic in the conclusion.
 - Usually a single sentence is all you need to restate your topic.
 - An example from the humanities would be a paper about the Italian Renaissance: "The Italian Renaissance was an explosion of art and ideas centered around artists, writers, and thinkers in Florence."

Restate your thesis

- Aside from the topic, you should also restate or rephrase your thesis statement.
 - A thesis is a narrowed, focused view on the topic at hand.
 - This statement should be rephrased from the thesis you included in your introduction. It should not be identical or too similar to the sentence you originally used.
 - Try re-wording your thesis statement in a way that complements your summary of the topic of your paper in your first sentence of your conclusion.
 - An example of a good thesis statement would be "Tuberculosis is a widespread disease that affects millions of people worldwide every year. *Due to the alarming rate of the spread of tuberculosis, particularly in poor countries, medical professionals are implementing new strategies for the diagnosis, treatment, and containment of this disease.*"

Briefly summarize your main points

- Essentially, you need to remind your reader what you told them in the body of the paper.
 - A good way to go about this is to re-read the topic sentence of each major paragraph or section in the body of your paper.
 - Find a way to briefly restate each point mentioned in each topic sentence in your conclusion. Do not repeat any of the supporting details used within your body paragraphs.
 - Under most circumstances, you should avoid writing new information in your conclusion. This is especially true if the information is vital to the argument or research presented in your paper.

Add the points up

- If your paper proceeds in an inductive manner and you have not fully explained the significance of your points yet, you need to do so in your conclusion.
 - Note that this is not needed for all research papers.
 - If you already fully explained what the points in your paper mean or why they are significant, you do not need to go into them in much detail in your conclusion. Simply restating your thesis or the significance of your topic should suffice.
 - It is always best practice to address important issues and fully explain your points in the body of your paper. The point of a conclusion to a research paper is to summarize your argument for the reader and, perhaps, to call the reader to action if needed.

Make a call to action when appropriate

- If and when needed, you can state to your readers that there is a need for further research on your paper's topic.
 - Note that a call for action is not essential to all conclusions.
 - A paper that is more likely to call readers to action is one that addresses a public or scientific need.
 - A call to action in a research paper would be a follow-up statement
 - "Despite new efforts to diagnose and contain the disease, more research is needed to develop new antibiotics that will treat the most resistant strains of tuberculosis and ease the side effects of current treatments."

写好摘要

Abstract

- An abstract is a brief summary of a research paper, thesis, review, conference proceeding, or any in-depth analysis of a particular subject, and is often used to help the reader quickly ascertain the paper's purpose.
- When used, an abstract always appears at the beginning of a manuscript typescript, acting as the point-of-entry for any given academic paper or patent application.
- Abstracting and indexing services for various academic disciplines are aimed at compiling a body of literature for that particular subject.



Types of Abstracts

- **Descriptive abstracts** explain the purpose, goal, and methods of your research but leave out the results section. These are typically only 100-200 words.
- **Informative abstracts** are like a condensed version of your paper, giving an overview of everything in your research including the results. These are much longer than descriptive abstracts, and can be anywhere from a single paragraph to a whole page long.
- **A critical abstract** accomplishes the same goals as the other types of abstract, but will also relate the study or work being discussed to the writer's own research. It may critique the research design or methods.

Write your paper first

- Even though an abstract goes at the beginning of the work, it acts as a summary of your entire paper. Rather than introducing your topic, it will be an overview of everything you write about in your paper. Save writing your abstract for last, after you have already finished your paper.
 - A thesis and an abstract are entirely different things. The thesis of a paper introduces the main idea or question, while the abstract works to review the entirety of the paper, including the methods and results.
 - Even if you think that you know what your paper is going to be about, always save the abstract for last. You will be able to give a much more accurate summary if you do just that - summarize what you've already written.

Identify your purpose

- You're writing about a correlation between lack of lunches in schools and poor grades. So what? Why does this matter?
- The reader wants to know why your research is important, and what the purpose of it is. Start off your descriptive abstract by considering the following questions:
 - Why did you decide to do this study or project?
 - How did you conduct your research?
 - What did you find?
 - Why is this research and your findings important?
 - Why should someone read your entire essay?

Explain the problem at hand

- Abstracts state the “problem” behind your work. Think of this as the specific issue that your research or project addresses. You can sometimes combine the problem with your motivation, but it is best to be clear and separate the two.
 - What problem is your research trying to better understand or solve?
 - What is the scope of your study - a general problem, or something specific?
 - What is your main claim or argument?

Explain your methods

- Motivation - check. Problem - check. Methods?
- Methods are the part where you give an overview of how you accomplished your study. If you did your own work, include a description of it here. If you reviewed the work of others, it can be briefly explained.
 - Discuss your own research including the variables and your approach.
 - Describe the evidence you have to support your claim
 - Give an overview of your most important sources.

Describe your results (informative abstract only)

- This is where you begin to differentiate your abstract between a descriptive and an informative abstract. In an informative abstract, you will be asked to provide the results of your study. What is it that you found?
 - What answer did you reach from your research or study?
 - Was your hypothesis or argument supported?
 - What are the general findings?

Give your conclusion

- This should finish up your summary and give closure to your abstract. In it, address the meaning of your findings as well as the importance of your overall paper. This format of having a conclusion can be used in both descriptive and informative abstracts, but you will only address the following questions in an informative abstract.
 - What are the implications of your work?
 - Are your results general or very specific?

Common Problems

1. Too long
2. Too much details
3. Too short
4. Failed to include important information

Abstract vs. Introduction

Abstract

1. Has a maximum word limit;
2. Is a summary of the whole research;
3. Mainly summarizes the research (particularly the objective and the main finding/conclusion), not an introduction to the research area.

Introduction

- Should be short, but does not have a word limit;
- Should mainly introduce the research by presenting the context and background;
- Should usually go from general to specific, introducing the research problem and how it will be investigated.

写好题目

The Title of a Paper Tells What is the Paper about.

- Be informative
- Be interesting and attractive
- Be clear
- Be concise

How to craft a title?

- Identify the key words that best present the research.
- Use the key words to create a phrase as the title.
- Indicate the purpose and the result of the research.
- Be specific.

Importance of the Title for a Research Paper

- Coming up with an effective title can end up being the most difficult part of your paper. A catchy title can make your paper stand out from the pile and give your reader a sense of the content, slant (倾斜、偏爱), and perspective of your essay. To craft a strong title, you need to focus on the three elements of a standard title: the hook (吸引人的东西), the key terms, and the source or location. This structure applies specifically to academic essays, but you can also apply this structure to narrative essays.

Using Keywords or Images

1. Consider the tone of your essay

- Is your essay a straightforward, academic essay? Or is it a more free form, narrative essay? Match the tone of your title to the tone of your essay.

2. Sum up your paper in three words or less

- You can also sum up the thesis for your essay in three words or less. Take out a piece of paper and write down the three words. Then, see if you can place commas or colons between them to create a title.

3. Choose two to three keywords from your introduction or conclusion

- Your introduction should include your thesis and the general ideas in your essay. Your conclusion should also restate your thesis and sum up your analysis. Both sections may be good places to find keywords that could lead to a strong title for your essay.

4. Use a strange or unique image

- Using the description of an image will give your reader a visual that will then frame the rest of the essay. Think of a bold or striking image that can be summed up in one to three words.
 - For example, a paper about a volcano could have the title: “The Day the Earth Bled: The Eruption of Mount Vesuvius”.