

Writing the perfect conclusion

WHY DO WE USE THEM?

Conclusions are used in persuasive writing to wrap up your argument and leave your reader with a lasting impression of your final judgement.

They serve as a brief reminder of the points you've made throughout your text, bringing everything together to complete your argument.

A conclusion should begin very specific and finish much more general. This is the direct opposite to the way you should write introductions, which begin general and become more specific to give you more scope to expand on your arguments.

A ROUGH CONCLUSION OUTLINE SHOULD LOOK LIKE THIS:

1. Rephrase and restate your question to remind the reader of your argument.

2. Reiterate the main points you used to support your argument to remind the reader why what you've written is important.

3. In light of the points you have explored over the course of your essay, give a clear final answer to the essay question.

4. Finish the conclusion with an impactful and relevant final statement.

TO SUMMARISE

Restate the words from the question

Restate your main 3 points

Give a final answer to essay question

Impactful last statement

Your conclusion does not need to be long to be effective. Look at the following example to see how you can hit all of the main components of a successful conclusion in only a few sentences.

There can be no doubt that Brontë's *Jane Eyre* is entirely dedicated to breaking down social expectations of the time. Jane's character consistently circumvents the social and cultural limits imposed upon her as a result of her class and gender, and while the short-term consequences of these actions were often unpleasant, they frequently resulted in an eventual improvement of Jane's standard of living. Jane evades every social expectation imposed upon her, and still finds the "love and kinship she longed for without sacrificing her own identity", emphasising the futility of 19th century class and gender divides; Jane breaks all the rules, and still finds peace.

THERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO AVOID WHEN WRITING A CONCLUSION:

Phrases like "to conclude" or "in summary". The structure of your essay should indicate to the reader that your argument is coming to an end, so you don't need to signpost it. These kinds of phrases can also cheapen a text, removing an element of formality and maturity from your writing.

Introducing new ideas or evidence. If you come to your conclusion and realise you have missed a key point, try to incorporate it into the main body of your essay.

Summarising your points. You should only very briefly reiterate your main points - you don't need to go into any depth, because the main body of your essay should have already done this.