

- **About Conclusions**

Conclusions are notoriously difficult for writers. There are some strategies writers can use to make this task easier.

**Simple summary.** In this conclusion, writers recap the major points of their essay. This is a common but not terribly effective form of conclusion.

**The “big picture” or the “web” conclusion.** This type of conclusion allows the writer to place her/his specific topic against a background of a larger and more significant topic. In this way, the writer can connect her/his research question to a web of related issues. For example, a writer addressing an incident of hate speech on campus can connect her work to First Amendment rights, gay rights, racial discrimination, etc.

**The proposal.** This conclusion incites action from the reader. The writer makes a call for action or for future study in an effort to persuade readers into action. This technique can be especially useful in a persuasive essay.

**The anecdote.** Using an anecdote in a conclusion can reconnect the reader with the human or personal elements of the essay. The writer illustrates the topic’s significance by relating a brief story.

**Hook and return.** In this conclusion, the writer returns to the opening “hook” of the essay and recasts it in the conclusion. This strategy gives the whole paper a sense of unity and coherence.

**Delayed thesis.** This conclusion presents the thesis of the paper. The paper leads up to the thesis, which is stated explicitly at the end. This sort of conclusion works best for exploratory essays where the writer is not supposed to arrive at any conclusion on the topic until the end. This strategy might work well with highly controversial topics where the writer does not want to seem biased by presenting a position at the beginning.