



DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Writing a Conclusion

A **conclusion** should restate the thesis or return the reader to the thesis. It should start specific and end general while summing up the paper and giving it a sense of closure.

Ideas for a Conclusion

Summary

Summarize the main elements of the paper.

Ex: *Writing can be an enjoyable pastime for anyone. As was discussed, writing is stimulating, entertaining, and rewarding.*

Application

Explain how the topic affects the reader.

Ex: *When students discover writing for pleasure, they will find themselves both stimulated to reach new heights and rewarded for their efforts.*

Evaluation

Make a judgment on the topic of the paper.

Ex: *Writing is the best way any person could spend his or her spare time.*

Prophecy

Project what the future may hold for the topic that is being discussed.

Ex: *In the future, writing for pleasure may become one of the world's favorite pastimes.*

Quotation

Cite from a source in a way that sums up the paper.

Ex: *It is when students discover writing for pleasure that they will discover life. As John Fletcher states, "Ask how to live? Write, write, write, anything."*

Inquisition

Ask a question or a series of questions.

Ex: *How long will others wait? How much time will people waste before they discover what their lives have been missing?*

Echo

Allude to a part of the introduction.

Ex: *(In the introduction: Who needs writing, anyway?) Conclusion: Who needs writing, anyway? We all do.*

Strong Emotional Statement

End the paper with a dramatic statement.

Ex: *Anyone who has not tried writing for pleasure is missing out on one of life's greatest thrills.*

The concluding paragraph should summarize the main points of the essay. First, restate the thesis statement as the first sentence of the concluding paragraph. It should not be written out word-for-word, but summed up more concisely. Then, write a few sentences that wrap up each idea or main point. Finally, end with a closing statement.