

## Writing a Conclusion

Here are some tips for writing strong conclusions:

1. Use the methods from the Thesis explication. (see Reading Strategies)

### Strategies for Writing a Conclusion

Conclusions are often the most difficult part of an essay to write, and many writers feel that they have nothing left to say after having written the paper. A writer needs to keep in mind that the conclusion is often what a reader remembers best. Your conclusion should be the best part of your paper.

A conclusion should

- stress the importance of the thesis statement,
- give the essay a sense of completeness, and
- leave a final impression on the reader.

Suggestions

#### Answer the question "So What?"

Show your readers why this paper was important. Show them that your paper was meaningful and useful.

#### Synthesize, as you summarize

Don't simply repeat things that were in your paper. They have read it. Show them how the points you made and the support and examples you used were not random, but fit together.

#### Redirect your readers

Give your reader something to think about, perhaps a way to use your paper in the "real" world. If your introduction went from general to specific, make your conclusion go from specific to general. Think globally.

#### Offer an analogy

This will give the reader another insight into your thesis.

#### Write a metaphor of your thesis.

This will allow the reader to see your thesis from a different perspective, and to draw upon their knowledge.

#### Create a new meaning

You don't have to give new information to create a new meaning. By demonstrating how your ideas work together, you can create a new picture. Often the sum of the paper is worth more than its parts. Philosophize.

Example: Essay -- critique of "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"

### **Concluding Paragraph, incorporating a metaphor:**

Without drive and motivation, one cannot hope to achieve their goals. T.S. Eliot's pathetic tale of J. Alfred Prufrock's desperate attempt to break free of an expressively oppressive society epitomizes this mandate. Prufrock, like a hamster on a wheel, repeats his desire to change, but is unable to muster the determination to jump off the wheel and forge a new path. One can only hope that we can apply such a message to our own lives, and not fall victim to the same fate as Prufrock.