

## WRITING CONCLUSIONS

The **conclusion** should signal to your readers that you have finished writing, and leave them with the clear impression that the purpose of the essay / dissertation / research paper has been achieved. It should take the points made in the body of the writing and use them to provide a concise answer. In other words, everything in your essay should **support your conclusion** and indicate to the reader your final position on the subject. An effective conclusion should progress from the specific content of the essay to more general, universal implications, recommendations and future developments.

**You should not introduce new ideas in your conclusion.**

As you write your conclusion, remember that it is your final impression on your reader in terms of the style and content of your research paper. Edit it well for development of ideas, coherence and accuracy.

**Your conclusion should mirror your introduction and will usually be shorter than the introduction.**

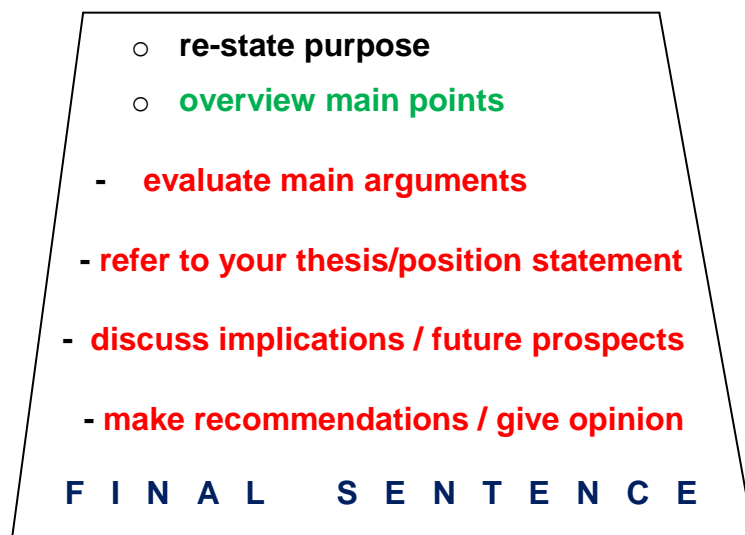
## CORE ELEMENTS

A conclusion would normally include **some** of the following elements:

### SPECIFIC



### GENERAL



Five aspects: Adapted from Godwin, J. (2009) *Planning your Essay* Basingstoke Palgrave Macmillan

The core elements of the conclusion can be grouped into 5 main aspects.

## **ASPECT 1: re-state purpose** (1-2 sentences)

The first sentence of the conclusion should include some key words from the essay title to remind the reader of the purpose of the writing.

Briefly refer to the main aim of your writing.

## **ASPECT 2: overview the main points**

Re-state the main points that you discussed in the main body of the writing.

## **ASPECT 3: evaluate main arguments / refer to thesis/position statement**

Refer to your position statement (stated in the introduction) and indicate whether your main thesis has / has not been proved.

If you described problems in the main body, provide solutions in the conclusion.

Evaluate your main arguments – discuss any issues which are difficult / unusual / surprising / challenging / interesting.

## **ASPECT 4: discuss implications / make recommendations**

Show how your conclusion(s) impact, influence or are important in practice.

Speculate on the implications for future developments

Make recommendations / suggestions / give opinion for future action

## **ASPECT 5 final sentence**

Your last sentence is very important; the reader must feel that the topic has been rounded off.

**Note: throughout your essay/dissertation/research paper you will include your own, original ideas and comments on the information you have researched. In the conclusion, you have a final opportunity to sum up your own ideas i.e. to show that you really have thought about the topic and not just repeated the ideas of other authors and experts. This is essential if you want a good grade.**