Conclusions

Conclusions are used to:

- Complete your discussion of a subject (so you should not bring up new information)
- Make the reader remember your essay and thesis
- Restate and Emphasize your Thesis Statement
- Summarize your Thesis Statement’s strongest support

When you stated your Thesis in the introduction, the reader did not believe it because you had not proved it yet. In the body of the essay, you should have proved each specific supporting argument for your Thesis, but your reader might not remember your overall Thesis from the introduction. In the conclusion, therefore, you must remind your reader of your Thesis by restating it in different words.

In your conclusion, DO NOT:

- Bring up new information or supporting arguments – if you are trying to complete or finish your essay, why would you bring up new information to discuss?
- Copy-and-paste your Thesis from the introduction – this is too repetitive; restate your Thesis in different, stronger, more certain words. Say it like you really believe it.
- Use phrases like “in conclusion,” “to conclude,” “in summary,” or “to sum up.” Most readers prefer more creative transitions. If you cannot think of a creative transition, try using “in conclusion” and then cutting the phrase so that you begin with whatever follows it.

Strategies for Conclusions

- Refer to an Idea from the Introduction
  - By referring to something in the introduction in addition to the Thesis (a word, phrase, sentence, or concept), you will make the paper feel like it has “come full circle” and is therefore finished.
- Challenge the reader
  - If your thesis argues that people should do or think something, then your conclusion could challenge readers to do it or think it.
- Offer a solution
  - If your essay and thesis discuss a problem and its cause, your conclusion might suggest a general (not specific) solution to the problem. For example, an essay describing a conflict between two people could end by calling for a compromise.
- Look to the Future
  - If your essay and thesis discuss a current issue, situation, or problem, then your conclusion could suggest possible consequences for the future.