

Experiment with Conclusions

“The end must connect with the opening. What has been promised must have been delivered. Read the opening over to see what closing it implies.”

~Donald Murray

Some conclusions to try:

- **Call to action:** what the reader can do about the issue
- **Prediction:** an insight into how the future could be different, better, or worse
- **Strong, punched statement:** perhaps a one sentence paragraph
- **Anecdote:** a brief story that makes your point about the situation
- **Pointed question:** leaves the reader thinking
- **Echo:** circles back to the lead

A conclusion to avoid:

“Only rarely in effective writing is the closing a formal summary in which the writer repeats... what has already been said.”

~Donald Murray

Some Transitional Words and Phrases

According to	Fortunately	Nonetheless
After	However,	Now
Again	Immediately	Of course
Although	In any case	On the one hand
Another	In other words	On the other side
As soon as	In short	Or consider
As a (girl, boy, student, etc.)	In the meantime	Perhaps
At the same time	It's obvious/clear that	Somehow
At this point	Just consider	Sometimes
But	Maybe	Soon
Finally	Meanwhile	Still
For years/months	Most important	
	Next	

Do	Don't
Ask a provocative question	Simply restate your thesis statement
Leave with an interesting quotation	Introduce a brand new idea
Call for action	Focus on a minor point of the essay
Loop back to the anecdote in the introduction	Use the following phrases: "In conclusion," "In summary," or "In closing"
End with a warning	Add extra information that should have been in the body of the essay
Paint a strong image	
Express your hopes	
Answer the "So what?" question	
Point to broader implications	
<p><i>Sources: University of Richmond Writing Center 2010 Maple Woods Community College Writing Center 2011 The Writing Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 2011</i></p>	

Figure 7.5 Writing a Conclusion: Dos and Don'ts

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