

Conclusions



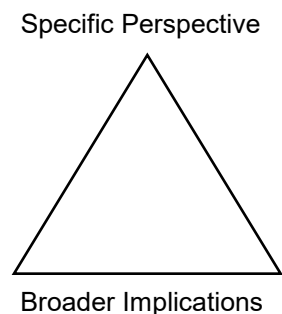
Conclusions reemphasize the important aspects of your work, offer a clear purpose for your writing, and provide closure for your readers. This handout provides basic principles and practical tips, but always tailor your work to your audience and assignment.

Remind Readers of Your Main Points

- Remind the audience of your main points in a way that confirms the thesis and main purpose of your work.
- Rather than merely repeating your thesis, synthesize the information and evidence to show how your main points work together.

Explain the Implications of Your Work

- Address the implications, or purpose, of your work to ensure readers feel like what they have read *matters*. Don't leave your audience thinking, *So what?* or wondering what action or stance you propose.
- Indicate how the main points help readers understand the topic better.
- Show what other topics your paper might shed light on or what work remains for others to address.



Provide a Sense of Closure

- Readers should feel the paper is complete and that it leaves them something to think about.
- Try not to close your paper abruptly (e.g., “In conclusion . . .”), but provide a fluid and logical transition from the body of your work until the end. Referencing something you said in your introduction is a good way to provide a sense of closure in your conclusion, since it ties your initial point to the body of your work.
- Maintain your readers’ interest by ending with the same tone and energy you began with.

Example

“While most history books paint Michelangelo’s *David* as a symbol of Florence, this heroic sculpture takes on a fascinating dimension when seen as a representation of the task facing the artist himself. From the challenge of continuing the decade-old prophet series begun by Renaissance master Donatello, to the difficulties of the physical size and defects of the block of Carrara marble, Michelangelo’s feat of sculpting the *David* mirrored the triumph of the young Biblical hero himself. It marked the beginning of an unparalleled career that continues to inspire artists and viewers alike. Michelangelo’s *David* ultimately rises above the boundaries of impossibility as a symbol of unprecedented human achievement.”

Reminder of thesis

Specific claims

So what?