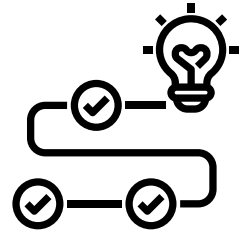
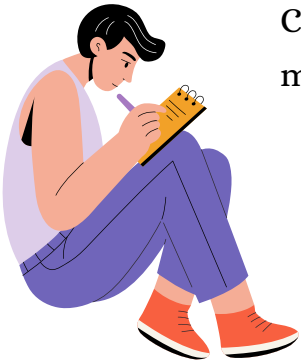


# Conclusions

Conclusions are used to **summarize** what has been said throughout a paper while also **leaving the reader with something to think about**. Consider the future implications of your topic, what work still needs to be done, or what questions have been left unanswered.



## Characteristics of Effective Conclusions



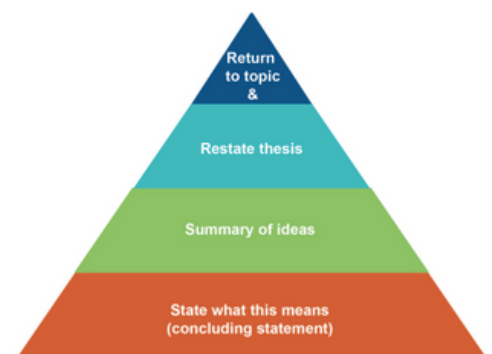
Conclusions can vary across different kinds of writing and different subject matter, but some writing patterns that make for a solid conclusion.

- **Go Beyond the Assignment:** Consider the conclusion as a space where you can draw large connections to outside details, elaborate on findings, and explain broader arguments.
- **Providing the Last Word:** Particularly for readers who may not be as familiar with your subject, your conclusion may serve as the final engagement they have with a topic. Demonstrate the importance of your ideas and encourage your reader to learn more.
- **Synthesis over Summary:** While conclusions do engage with summary to an extent, writers should spend the majority of the paragraph synthesizing. Synthesis in the conclusion should bring themes or topics discussed in the paper into conversation with one another.
- **Recontextualization:** Just as introductions provide context for your argument to the reader, conclusions should add context for the reader to take the information and apply it to the world around them.
- **Evolved Thesis:** It is often suggested that writers restate their thesis in the conclusion; however, be wary of using the same language/argument if it has evolved throughout the paper.

## Tips for Writing



Use the **inverted introduction style**. Conclusions often discuss similar topics to the introduction, but in a new and engaging manner. Consider this diagram that outlines what could be included in a conclusion paragraph.



Use the conclusion to answer the overarching **“so what now” question**. Explain the importance, validity, urgency, necessity, and/or value of your arguments.

Handout made by  
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