

# **Writing a Good Concluding Paragraph**

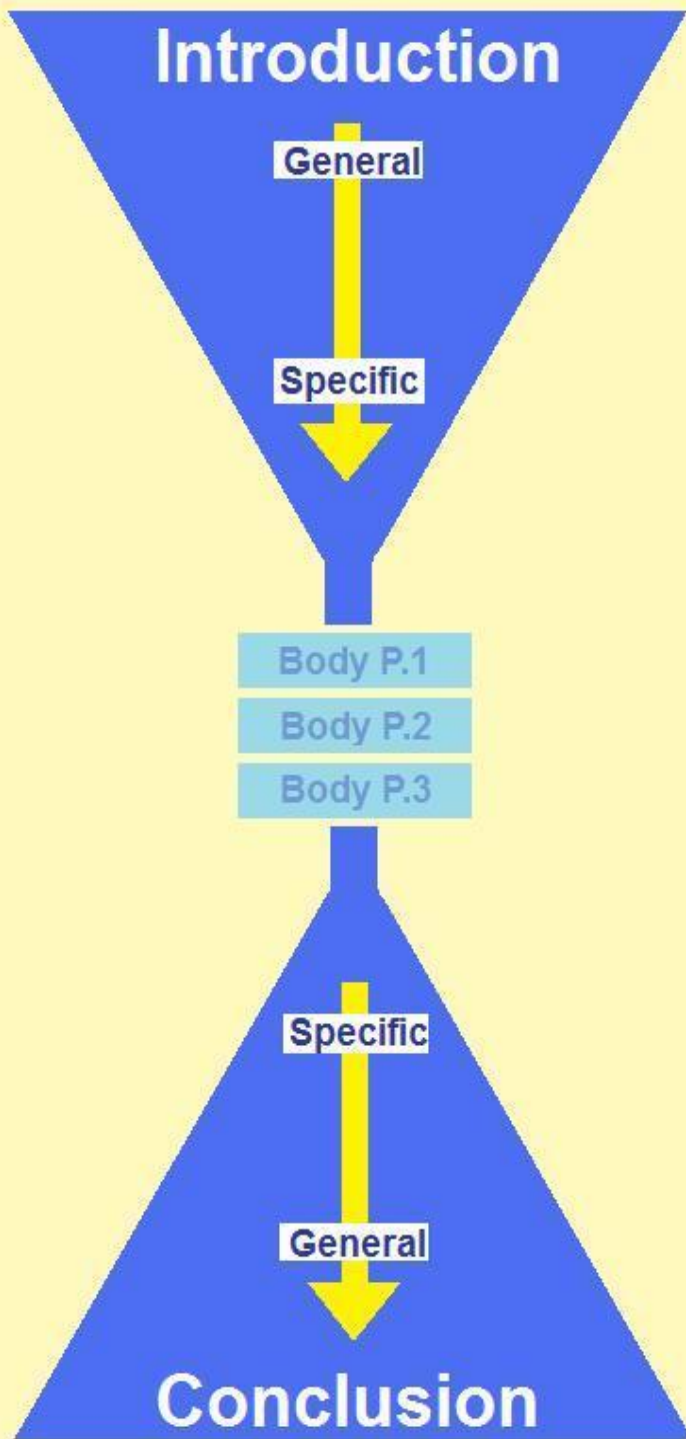
# What does the conclusion do?

1. it summarizes the essay
2. it shows you proved the point you set out to make
3. it gives the reader a sense of completion
4. it leaves the reader remembering your main point

Wait, that sounds kind of like the introduction!

So, what is the difference between the introductory paragraph & the concluding paragraph?

**The difference is in the approach to the topic.**



Think of these two paragraphs as funnels, one leading toward the body of your essay, while the other leads the reader away from the body.

- The **introduction** begins with a general approach to the topic and then moves toward the more specific aspect(s) of it
- The **conclusion** begins with the more specific aspect(s) and moves toward the general topic of your essay

# What main point did you want to make in your essay?

- Did you make that point?
- Summarize it in your conclusion.
- Often you can use the introductory paragraph as a guide. This will help you come full circle and give your reader a sense of completion.

Perhaps you began your essay by saying:

"There are three classes at school that I absolutely can't wait to go to every day."

Then you might make this the first sentence of your conclusion:

"Gym, Math, and Art are the three classes I look forward to the most."

*Do you see how the first is more general and the last is more specific?*

# Other Ways to Summarize the Essay's Main Points:

- Refer briefly to the topic of each paragraph you wrote.
- Leave readers with something to think about.
- Suggest something readers can do about what they've just read.

# How to Structure the Final Paragraph

- 1. Topic sentence:** repeat the ideas in your thesis statement, but with deeper understanding
- 2. Supporting sentences:** summarize the main points in the body of your essay
- 3. Closing sentence:** connect back to the introduction to "clinch" the ideas in the essay, showing their importance



**What if a new idea tries to sneak into that final paragraph?**

If it's really important, give it a paragraph of its own in the body of the essay.

***The concluding paragraph is not the place to introduce new information or make more points about the topic.***

# The "So What?" Tip for Writing an Effective Conclusion

After writing your topic sentence, ask yourself:

**"So what?"** Why is that important?"

Your next sentence should explain why.

Then ask yourself again:

**"So what?"** Why is *that* important?"

And so on.

# Example of the "So What?" Method of Starting the Concluding Paragraph:

"Education is very important in society."

**"So what? Why is it important?"**

"It gives all citizens an equal start."

**"So what? Why is *that* important?"**

***Can you write an answer?***

# Strategies for Ending the Concluding Paragraph:

- 1.** Perhaps add a quotation or surprising insight from the materials you researched.
- 2.** Suggest some action to take or a solution to an issue.
- 3.** Bring up questions for further study.
- 4.** Point out broader consequences of the points you've made.

# What **NOT** to Include in the Concluding Paragraph:

- 1.** Overused phrases: "in conclusion," "in summary," "in closing"
- 2.** A new idea or subtopic
- 3.** Supporting evidence or details (these should be in the body of the essay)