

Writing Conclusions in Essay Writing

Writing a conclusion is somewhat like saying goodbye. Think about the kinds of ideas you say at the end of a conversation. Do you repeat the idea you want remembered? Do you tag on a reminder? Perhaps you conclude with the point you've been trying to make. Writing a conclusion can be as easy as ending a conversation.

Types of Conclusions

Just as there are many ways to end a conversation, there are many ways to conclude a piece of writing.

Repeating the Main Idea

When you want to be sure your reader will remember your main idea, repeat it in your conclusion. You might also want to restate the main points you used as support. In the following model the first sentence states the main idea. The other sentences in the paragraph all support that idea. The conclusion repeats the main points covered in the article.

Example

Win or lose, most people race sled dogs for fun. Racing is too demanding and too costly, and the cash prizes are too few and too small, for people to race for any other reason. Sled dog racing is not for everyone, but it's a truly unique and exciting sport for people who like the winter outdoors and who love dogs.

Make a Recommendation

You can use your conclusion to make a recommendation—to tell readers what you want them to think of to do.

Example

Let's get penny-wise and abolish the 1 cent piece. The idea is logical, so obviously correct, that I am sure the new Congress will enact it during its first days in office.

Ending with the Last Event

Many pieces end by telling the last thing that happened. When you tell what happened last, try to bring the final moments to life by using imagery words. Also, try to show what was most important or meaningful about the event to you or your audience.

Example

I watched the closing ceremonies, realizing that our Olympic dreams were now just memories. Athletes from all over the world spilled into the stadium. Some held hands forming long chains; others embraced in tearful good-byes; all were swaying with the intoxicating music in a sea of bright colors. Fireworks exploded overhead. The scoreboard flashed "Farewell". Then the music and lights faded and all eyes watched as the Olympic torch dimmed, flickered, and went out.

Using a Quotation

Quotations from eyewitnesses, participants, and experts make strong conclusions.

Example

Just before she was to perform at a basketball game, this girl told me: "I'm going to high school next year, and I know I won't make the cheerleading squad there. I know there are a lot of girls who are better at it than I am. But at least I got to have the experience. And that's something I can remember all my life."