

The Concluding Paragraph

Functions of the concluding paragraph

1. Leave the reader with a clear understanding of your main idea and major supports (directly or indirectly for major supports).
2. Leave reader with an appreciation of your main idea.
3. Slow down the momentum, "switch the reader's perspective from specifics to whole" (see Step 1 in *Paragraph Practice's* method, below).

Features

1. Is not too long.
2. Is simple (not complex or difficult; no confusing faulty language).
3. Reminds the reader of the entire thesis (including its purpose and major parts).
4. Is not just a dry, dead repetition of the thesis. It doesn't use the same words to restate
5. Doesn't introduce new ideas that want more discussion or distract the reader from the essay's purpose and thesis.

Methods

You're in Charge

1. Summary (major points)
2. Restatement and final comment (idea of thesis statement)

Paragraph Practice

Steps for the crafting of both of the methods presented in *You're in Charge*:. **This is the structure that English 3 and 4 writers will use for the concluding paragraph.**

1. First, a general statement (let's call this the closing bridge sentence) to shift the reader's perspective from specifics to whole. This does not include the main idea or major supporting ideas.
2. Second, a sentence which touches on main and major points from the thesis, or summarizes the whole thing.
3. Last, a closing statement for special emphasis.

Make your conclusion short and simple.

from *Paragraph Practice*, p.134

You are essentially finished by the time you reach your conclusion, but if your discussion has been successful, it has gathered a momentum that needs to be slowed down before it is stopped. Your reader, who has been propelled along by your discussion, needs a chance to shift gears, take a backward glance, and then come to a rest. This process is not complicated, however, and should not be dragged out. Therefore, make your conclusion short and simple.

A concluding paragraph is best constructed in the following standard manner. First, a general statement about the subject is made to signal the reader to shift his perspective from the specifics of the preceding discussion to the subject or discussion as a whole. This statement is usually followed by a sentence that touches on the main points of the discussion (which are taken from the thesis) or that summarizes them. Finally, there may be a closing statement for special emphasis. The composition should not end abruptly or fade away. The end should come naturally, the main purpose completed, the final statement made.