

How to Write Conclusions for Papers About Literature

A conclusion must provide synthesis and restate the thesis statement.

Do **not** restate the thesis verbatim (that is, word for word).

Do restate the main point of what you are trying to prove in the paper.

Both the paper and the conclusion should serve a specific purpose.

You must always include a deeper observation about life, a connection to the bigger picture or worldview.

Emphasize the significance or consequence of your analysis of the primary text.

Although it is not appropriate to state a personal view in the body of the paper, you may do so in the conclusion (but do not use personal pronouns).

Try to end the essay with a unique thought or “flourish.” You want to end the essay by leaving a lasting impression. It is your last chance to make your thesis clear and valid.

Here is the basic structure of the concluding paragraph:

1. transition from the last body paragraph
2. a stronger, more emphatic and detailed version of your thesis
3. How your view of the primary text should change my mind about it or confirm a previously held view
4. final words (so what? why is this important?) that emphasizes the result of the ideas in the essay.

DO NOT repeat the main points of the essay.