

A Writing Center Helpful Handout

CONCLUSIONS

1. What Should a Conclusion Do?

- a) Restate and expand on your thesis
- b) Summarize your essay
- c) Leave your reader with a positive last impression of the essay

2. Four Common Methods of Introduction

- a) **Statement of the subject's significance**
 - Move from the specific concerns of your paper to the broader concerns of the reader's world.
- b) **Anecdote**
 - The point of which is to shed light on your subject
- c) **Quotation**
 - Quote the words of a famous person, or an authority in the field of which you are writing, this connects your works to those of others.
- d) **Speculation.**
 - Ask what has happened, or discuss what might happen. This engages your reader because the subject is unknown.

3. Checklist

- ∂ You've engaged your reader in an interesting way.
- ∂ You've considered who is your audience.
- ∂ You've restated your thesis and summarized the essay.
- ∂ You are confident and assertive about your idea.
- ∂ Your conclusion is unified, coherent and it flows smoothly.
- ∂ Your conclusion does not contain vague generalizations.
- ∂ You have not introduced any new topics in your conclusion.

*Information compiled from *Writing and Reading across the Curriculum* and *Hodge's Harbrace Handbook*.