

The Conclusion

INTROS/CONCLUSIONS

Body Paragraphs

Your body paragraphs should funnel into your conclusion.
This means your conclusion should briefly touch on the essential points of your body paragraphs.

Signal

Subtly introduce the end of the paper.

Thesis

Restate/Paraphrase your argument by emphasizing the specific main points you discussed in your body paragraphs.

Overview

Bring your ideas into a larger context by making real-world connections, discussing the implications of your argument, or redefining a key term.

Push the Envelope

Leave the reader with something to think about.
This could be a question, a resonating fact/statistic, a call to action, or simply a thought-provoking final statement.

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Stylistic Choices

- ✓ Connect back to the hook used in the introduction
- ✓ Conclude with a simple, straight-forward sentence for dramatic effect
- ✓ Conclude with a compound or parallel sentence structure to establish order after a complex argument

AVOID

- ✗ Overly general or obvious statements such as: “In conclusion...” “To sum up...” “In the end...”
- ✗ Too much summary of your essay
- ✗ Weak or underconfident conclusion

*Handout information adapted from
Harvard College Writing Center*

The Introduction Funnel

Situation

What is happening?

Grab the reader's attention with an appropriate opener that establishes the general context of your paper, such as an interesting example, thought-provoking question, provocative quote, or vivid anecdote.

Emphasis

What is important about what is happening?

Provide the necessary background for the specific aspects of the topic you plan to discuss.

Thesis

What is your claim about this topic?

State your position on the subject.

Body Paragraphs

Your introduction should funnel into your subsequent body paragraphs. This means that each body paragraph should address some aspect of your introduction.

AVOID

✗ Overly general or obvious statements such as:

“Since the beginning of time...” “Media is everywhere...” “Webster’s Dictionary defines socialism as...”

✗ Excessive background that may be obvious, or general information that is irrelevant to your point

✗ Topics or main points you will not cover in your paper

✗ Too many ideas that make your thesis indistinct

✗ Specific points that need more explanation and should be covered in a body paragraph

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