



# Conclusions

the end of it all

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# A Metaphor

Although desserts taste delicious at any time of day, there's a reason why we eat them after dinner: they're the grand finale that leave us with a good impression of the meal we just had.

A conclusion should also leave us **feeling content, impressed, and maybe, even inspired**. Even if all the body paragraphs are fantastic, if you put a boring or incomplete conclusion at the end, the reader will walk away with a negative final impression of your work. This is why some restaurants give free mints or chocolates with the check: customer satisfaction and building a positive relationship!

# Recipe for a Good Conclusion:



1. **Pie crust:** Restate the thesis using new words (paraphrase)
2. **Cheesecake:** Review the major points of the essay concisely and using new words
3. **Whipped cream:** Mention the legacy, significance, lessons we can learn, predictions for the future, or other "takeaways" (the "so what" of your research paper)
4. **Blueberry garnish:** A final statement that is a call to action or thought to ponder.

# Words of caution . . .

- **Think about portion control!** You don't want the reader to still feel hungry (too short) or stuffed to the point that she's going to be sick (too long).
- **Stay consistent with the tone and style** of the paper. Don't suddenly shift into wording that is more or less formal than before.
- **Do not introduce brand new facts for the first time.** Rather, this is the time to analyze facts that were already stated, restate them, or maybe even synthesize multiple facts to make big general statements.
- Don't let anything in your conclusion be random or off topic.

# Sample thesis restatement

Thesis: Supporting public radio is vital to a well-connected and informed community.

Conclusion: Small towns across America need the connection and information provided by public radio.



# Not sure how to start the conclusion?

Return to your hook. How did you start your essay? Can you mirror that hook and language?

- Quote
- Anecdote
- Simile / metaphor
- Interesting fact

# Metaphor or Simile

Writing is a process that takes time to learn and practice. Just like good desserts take practice and a burnt cake or two. With practice, students can learn to write strong conclusions.



# Quote

- Introduction Hook

*Albert Einstein once said, "Any man who can drive safely while kissing a pretty girl is simply not giving the kiss the attention it deserves."*

- Conclusion

*It doesn't take an Einstein to realize that cell phones are not the first, nor will they be the last, driving distraction. We don't need more restrictions on cell phones; we just need better drivers.*

# Anecdote

- Introduction

*The Chico city council recently approved six hundred new homes to go in on the east side of the city. The impacts this development will have are likely to be extreme, illustrating the problems all California cities face in managing growth.*

- Conclusion

*How well Chico will cope with the increased traffic, pressure on schools, and impacts to the watershed is yet to be seen. But Chico is not alone in having to find solutions soon.*

# Call to Action

Ask the reader to take action.

**Thesis:** Ethiopians are victims of climate change, government corruption and the inadequacies of humanitarian aid.

**Conclusion:** The people of Ethiopia suffer from a trifecta of misfortune: drought, corruption, and insufficient aid. Can we blame the victims? I don't think so. We can help Ethiopians. One way is through donations to non-profit humanitarian organizations, like One. Another way hits closer to home. If we all make the decision to decrease our personal contribution to global warming.