

Writing Strong Conclusions

Conclusions do more than simply restate what you have already written. They *escort* readers out of an essay and present the writer's final "so what?"

Conclusions:

- **Restate** crucial information.
 - This is your chance to restate your thesis with slightly different wording. Restating your thesis creates a sense of closure by revisiting the introduction. You may also want to repeat some of your important points.
 - Maybe there is a *key phrase, idea, or example* that can prompt additional thoughts. Here, you look back at what you've said and bring that together in a culminating, final thought. You add to the ideas presented in the introduction.
- **Look beyond** the focus of the essay to broader issues, the consequences, applications, or ideas for future consideration.
 - Here, you can look outward to the wider world and to the future.
 - You can look to the future by writing a sentence or two about what else needs to be researched or addressed that is relevant to your topic.
 - What is important to think about for the long term?

Sentence Starters for "Restating"

- In Summary, _____
- As I have previously stated _____ (Only if your instructor allows use of "I" in formal essays)
- To sum up, _____

Sentence starters for "Looking Beyond":

- In the future, researchers should also consider _____
- The long-term implications and consequences (of your topic) are _____
- Therefore, in looking ahead, _____
- If I had more time, I would also like to address this _____
- At the heart of this _____
- Beyond this _____

Example conclusion

Restate thesis: In summary, post-secondary education is important because it helps people grow, acquire new skills, and develop confidence. **Major Subclaims:** As I have previously argued, 4-year-colleges, community colleges and other post-secondary education institutions help people grow emotionally and intellectually. Post-secondary education also provides people with the opportunity to learn new skills that correspond to their interests and careers. Moreover, the pursuit of an education after high school can help people build their confidence by providing them a chance to overcome new challenges. **Looking Forward:** Looking ahead, we as a country should consider how to make post-secondary education accessible to all people who are interested in pursuing it so that more people can reap its benefits.