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Writing the Conclusion

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This article aims to equip writers with the necessary tools to write a compelling conclusion. A well-written conclusion leaves a lasting impression and reinforces your main argument, whether you are writing an academic paper or a creative project.

Wrapping Things Up

The last paragraph is a writer's final chance to leave a lasting impression on the readers, to make them feel like their time and effort have been worth the journey. Writing a weak conclusion would be like not knowing whether Frodo was able to destroy the One Ring in *The Lord of the Rings* or if we never saw the grade on our final paper. A strong conclusion typically contains some **closing thoughts**, a paraphrased **restatement of your thesis**, and a **synthesis of the main arguments**. Without adding any new material, the synthesis quickly reviews the main points raised in the essay and serves as a helpful reminder to the reader. A strong conclusion strengthens and unifies the major points, increasing the coherence of the work. It ensures that the reader has a firm grasp of the arguments and main ideas discussed and leaves them feeling reflective.

Finishing Strong

Because writing is an art as much as a science, there are many ways to conclude a paper. However, one of the easiest and most effective ways is to think of the conclusion as a reversal of the introduction. Return to the thesis and highlight the main points, remind readers of the context, and then come full circle to the ideas presented in your hook.

- Begin your conclusion with a thought-provoking or general opening statement that encapsulates the essence of your paper. This could be a reflection, a quick wrap-up sentence of what you previously discussed, or the implications of your topic. Consider how your arguments might encourage readers to adopt new perspectives or take action. Ponder what might occur if we took the ideas presented to their ultimate conclusion.
- Rephrase your thesis statement to remind the reader of the central argument of your paper. This restatement is crucial since it demonstrates how the paper's concepts are synthesized and thought through. Rephrasing the thesis will show how the paper's body has developed and supported it, as opposed to simply restating it word for word.
- Briefly synthesize the main ideas discussed in your paper without introducing new information. Synthesizing demonstrates to the reader how the various points of connection come together to create a coherent story or argument.
- Help your readers see the parts as they relate to the whole, and allow them to feel a sense of satisfaction by leaving them with a sense that the story you have been telling is resolved.

Example

Closing Thought

There is no doubt that in the history of the world, the moon landing was one of the most

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significant events of the 20th century.

An Academic Thesis

The Apollo 11 mission not only accomplished the achievement of setting foot on the moon, but it also demonstrated the unparalleled power of human cooperation, creativity, and perseverance in the face of overwhelming obstacles.

Synthesis

The accomplishment of the Apollo 11 mission was more than just setting foot on the moon; it was a powerful example of the potential for human collaboration and tenacity. Years of joint work by scientists, engineers, and astronauts from various fields and backgrounds resulted in this accomplishment. The mission demonstrated the problem-solving abilities and rigorous training displayed during crucial moments, such as the lunar descent and the safe return to Earth, as well as the creative solutions developed to overcome technological challenges, such as the development of the Lunar Module and the Saturn V rocket. Apollo 11 captured a historical moment where mankind pushed the bounds of what was thought possible and encouraged future generations to aim higher.

Tips

1. Synthesize, Don't Summarize. Synthesize your main ideas rather than just summarizing them. Explain how your arguments, the evidence and analysis you provided, and the examples you applied all work together.
2. Answer the "So What?" Describe the significance of your argument and reasoning. Explain the importance of your concepts and their broader implications. You should clarify how important your topic is and how it will affect the reader or your field of study. Essentially, you're answering why the reader should care about what you've written.
3. Echo the Introduction. Relate your conclusion to your introduction. You can accomplish this by referring to your thesis statement or a sentence from the introduction paragraph in your opening conclusion sentence.
4. Avoid Adding New Information. The conclusion is not typically the place to introduce new arguments, evidence, or commentary. Remain within the scope of what you have already written.

Works Consulted

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