



Mr. Taylor's Language Arts Class: **Notes on Writing a Conclusion**

Conclusions are often the most difficult part of an essay to write, and many writers feel that they have nothing left to say after having written their other paragraphs. However, a writer needs to keep in mind that the conclusion is often what a reader remembers best. Your conclusion should be the best part of your writing piece.

A conclusion should . . .

- stress the importance of the thesis statement/topic sentence

The **thesis statement** is the sentence that contains the focus of your essay and tells your reader what the essay is going to be about.

- leave a final impression on the reader
- start with a transition word or phrase that show you are ending the piece

Here are some ideas for your conclusion:

Echoing the introduction:

Echoing your introduction can be a good strategy if it is meant to bring the reader full-circle. If you begin by describing a scenario, you can end with the same scenario as proof that your essay was helpful in creating a new understanding.

Challenging the reader:

By issuing a challenge to your readers, you are helping them to redirect the information in the paper, and they may apply it to their own lives.

Looking to the future:

Looking to the future can emphasize the importance of your paper or redirect the readers' thought process. It may help them apply the new information to their lives or see things more globally.

Asking a Question

Asking questions, either to your readers or in general, may help your readers gain a new perspective on the topic, which they may not have held before reading your conclusion.

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Here are four sample conclusions from an essay.

In conclusion, **medieval soldiers used many different methods to attack a castle.** It's hard to imagine fighting an enemy with ladders, bows, and catapults. But these methods helped the medieval soldiers achieve their task of taking over a castle!

In conclusion, it's hard to imagine fighting an enemy with ladders, bows, and catapults. But these methods helped the medieval soldiers achieve their task of taking over a castle! **Therefore, try using many methods to solve a problem because it can make you a stronger person.**

In conclusion, it's hard to imagine fighting an enemy with ladders, bows, and catapults. But these methods helped the medieval soldiers achieve their task of taking over a castle. **So, if we're smart enough to think of all possible solutions, we may be able to solve problems that we'll face later in life.**

In conclusion, it's hard to imagine fighting an enemy with ladders, bows, and catapults. But these methods helped the medieval soldiers achieve their task of taking over a castle! **Don't you think it's important to learn that there may be several ways to solve a problem?**