

# Conclusions

Conclusions are the **final paragraph** of an essay, and they serve to tie the main points of your paper together and **give the reader a sense of closure**. A conclusion should connect back to your central argument, and the presentation style will be influenced by the type of paper you are writing. When writing your conclusion, you are not limited to one specific style or format. No matter which method you choose to use, though, the first sentence of your conclusion should refer back to the claim you were making in your thesis statement.

Here are some popular methods but keep in mind that the examples below are much shorter than your conclusions will likely be:

1. **Summarize:** Begin by restating your thesis. Then, rephrase the main points from each supporting paragraph of your paper. Make sure to be somewhat general and **do not add additional details** that distract the reader from your main point (thesis). Your last sentence should provide a sense of finality with either a rallying call to action or a feel-good message.  
**For Example:** Due to human activity in the form of deforestation, poaching, and pollution, countless species are facing extinction. Deforestation leads to the destruction of habitats and poaching directly kills large populations, contributing to the fragility of species. Moreover, pollution in the form of plastic and toxic waste sickens and kills thousands of creatures each year. For the wellbeing of the Earth and the human race, it is necessary to act before it is too late!
2. **Universalize:** Explain how the topic of your paper connects with your community, country, or the world at large. How does this affect people? What implications does this have? Why should your reader care? Again, your last sentence should engage the reader with either a rallying call to action or a feel-good message  
**For Example:** While the extinction of a single species of animal may not seem like it will affect humans, the loss of biodiversity will decrease the longevity of the human race. Many plant and animal species reduce carbon emissions, thereby slowing down climate change. If we do not stop destroying forests, poaching, and polluting, the human race may face drastic consequences.
3. **Personal Reflection:** If it is permissible to use the first person (“I” or “we”) for this essay, you can use the conclusion to connect the topic back to your personal opinion. This is only recommended if the assignment calls for it (i.e. when asked to incorporate personal anecdotes or narrative.)  
**For Example:** A mass extinction is projected to wipe out 75% or more of Earth’s species if human activity does not change. Through my experience volunteering in the Amazon rainforest, I realized just how momentous and scary this would be. I personally cannot fathom a world in which Earth’s beautiful biodiversity is destroyed. We as a species must work to end deforestation, pollution, and poaching in order to save our planet and the ecosystems around us.
4. **Propose Potential Solutions to a Problem:** If your paper focuses on the causes of a problem/topic, you can use the conclusion to explore potential solutions. Make sure the first sentence reiterates what the problem is, as well as your central claim.  
**For Example:** While deforestation, poaching, and pollution make it difficult to save endangered species, it is possible to work together and prevent extinctions. Through programs that provide alternatives to hunting and lumber industries, as well as stricter policies, countless species can be saved. This can seem daunting, but if people band together and act quickly, the human race can move towards a brighter future.