

The conclusion is the last part of the essay. It's your last chance to say what you want to say. It's the last thing your reader will hear from you so it needs to be strong and powerful. The conclusion is the dividing line between your writing and the reader's life.

Part 1: Restated Thesis Statement

- Summarize your main points (thesis statement) in a new and different way. The summary should be extremely short, just one sentence.
 - Use a thesaurus to find synonyms for important words.
 - Write the sentence in a different order. Instead of starting with the topic, start with the reasons.

Original Thesis	Restated Thesis
The Little Rock Nine had to endure discrimination from the governor, white citizens, and white students.	The Little Rock Nine fought for their rights to equal education, despite discrimination from authority figures and their peers.

Part 2: Deep Thought/So What?

- Leave the reader with something to think about using one of the strategies.
 - ask a thought-provoking question.
 - use a quotation.
 - use a vivid description.
 - call for some sort of action.
 - end with a warning.
 - universalize (compare to other situations).
 - suggest results or consequences.

Conclusion

The conclusion is the last paragraph in an essay that includes a restated thesis statement and leaves the reader with something to think about.

Restated Thesis Statement

The thesis statement introduces the main ideas of the essay. The restated thesis statement reminds the reader of those main ideas by repeating them in a new way using different words or a different order.

Transition Words

Transition words help readers link ideas and thoughts. Some people think that starting a conclusion with "In conclusion," "to summarize," or "Finally" is trite and boring. Others think those words are a way to help the reader navigate the essay.

The Don'ts of a Conclusion

It's important to make sure that your conclusion is written just as effectively as the rest of your essay. Avoid the following things at all cost.

- ⌘ Recopy the thesis statement.
- ⌘ Introduce the thesis for the first time.
- ⌘ Change the tone of the paper. Formal papers keep a formal tone.
- ⌘ Introduce new ideas.
- ⌘ End with
 - ⌘ "This was my paper. . ."
 - ⌘ "My topic was. . ."
 - ⌘ "I hope you liked my essay."

Deep Thought

The last few sentences should leave the reader with a deep understanding of why the ideas matter. Why should they, or anyone else, keep caring about the main ideas after they're done reading? So what?

Note: Different content areas may have different expectations for writing. A conclusion that you write for a science paper may be very different than a conclusion for a history paper.

Really Good Stuff Teaching Guide

Hook Your Readers with Good Leads Poster

Congratulations on your purchase of the Really Good Stuff® **Hook Your Readers with Good Leads Poster**, the perfect way to introduce your students to powerful writing leads.

Meeting Common Core State Standards

The Really Good Stuff® **Hook Your Readers with Good Leads Poster** aligns with the following English Language Arts Standards:

Writing Anchor Standards

Text Types and Purposes

3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

Production and Distribution of Writing

5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:

- Hook Your Readers with Good Leads Poster
- This Really Good Stuff® Teaching Guide

A good story lead catches readers' attention and makes them want to continue reading. This poster offers student writers a variety of openers that are sure to engage their readers.

Displaying the Hook Your Readers with Good Leads Poster

Before displaying the Hook Your Readers with Good Leads Poster, make copies of this Really Good Stuff® Teaching Guide and file the pages for future use.

Hang the poster where students can view and interact with it easily. Visit our Web site at www.reallygoodstuff.com to download Really Good Stuff® Teaching Guides.

Introducing the Hook Your Readers with Good Leads Poster

Share the poster with students, and explain that an engaging beginning to their stories helps "hook" readers, or get them interested in what they are reading. Fitting the hook to the topic or using a variety of hooks makes a writer's story even more compelling.

Have students refer to the poster as you introduce each type of lead and discuss how each one can stimulate interest and add something unique to the writing. Copy the Hook Your Readers with Good Leads Recording Sheet for student reference and practice.

Snapshot Leads

Describe the Setting or a Character:

Writers help readers see who their stories are about and where they take place. Open with a colorful description of a character or setting. Stay away from overused words.

My cousin and I met an old, shaggy-haired dog walking slowly on the wooded path.

The giant's shadow momentarily blocked out the sun.

Use Sound Words:

Start with a sound to get readers to think about where it came from. Describe the sound, and then tell where it came from.

Whoosh, crackle, thud! The gust of wind broke the branches of the old tree.

Use a Simile or Metaphor:

Compare two unlike things or concepts to create a unique beginning.

Jake clung like a clam to his surfboard as the wave approached.

The sun was a roaring ball of fire.

Action Leads

Describe a Scary, Exciting, or Intense Moment:

Jump right into the action. Start with the most exciting or scariest moment.

The roller coaster came barreling down the track at a speed that blurred everything.

Use Strong Feelings or Emotions:

My hands trembled as I ripped open the mysterious package.

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Talking Leads

Write a Dialogue Between Characters:

Start with an intense moment between characters. Give enough information to hook the reader, and then let the story unfold.

*"Hand it over!" demanded Agent Brown.
"But the file is not here," retorted Michael.*

Think Out Loud. Use Internal Monologue:

Take the reader into the mind of a character. Make it a thought that reveals something interesting or exciting.

"I can't give up now! I'm almost at the finish line."

Recount a Memory:

Go back in time and recall an impactful moment.

My most terrifying moment happened nearly two years ago.

Questioning Leads

Start with a Riddle:

Use humor to hook your reader. Tie it to the rest of the story.

What is the strongest creature in the sea? A mussel.

Ask a Question or a String of Questions:

Start with a question, and then give the answer.

Have you ever imagined flying over the Grand Canyon as a bird? or swimming deep in the ocean as a gray whale?

Before each writing assignment, remind students to review the writing hooks on the poster and decide which type of lead would work well for their story. When meeting with students about their writing, encourage them to explain how their lead contributed to the story.

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Transitions

Key words called *transitions* are the signals a good writer uses to show the order in which things happened. Transitional words help the reader move from idea to idea by stating or implying the connections between ideas. Transitions keep the reader focused on the order of events or thoughts. Following are some groupings of frequently used transitional words and phrases you may wish to use.

Words That Show Sequence and Time

after	next	before
during	earlier	later
at the same time	while	last
first,second,third,etc.	meanwhile	simultaneously

Words That Link Thoughts

again	also	and
so	besides	further
furthermore	in addition	last
likewise	moreover	next

Words That Compare Ideas

also	as well as	in the same way
likewise	similarly	resembling

Words That Contrast Ideas

after all
however
on the other hand

although
nevertheless
yet

even though
on the contrary

Words That Show Cause and Effect

accordingly
consequently
since

due to
then
thus

therefore
as a result
because

Words That Emphasize

definitely
in fact
truly

certainly
surely
undoubtedly

indeed
to be sure
without a doubt

Words that Summarize

consequently
in closing

to sum up
finally

in conclusion
ultimately