

How to finish an essay

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Psychologists claim that what is said at the end of a conversation is best remembered. This is doubly true for academic papers: usually the instructor only reads the introduction and conclusion carefully. That's why it's so important to take how to end an essay seriously.

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Tips on how to write a conclusion in an essay

Any student paper - with the exception of solving problems that involve a numerical answer - ends with a conclusion or conclusions. The conclusion in an essay is essentially similar to the conclusion in other papers - for example, in a term paper or an essay:

The final conclusion in the essay should be based on the facts and arguments presented in the main body of the paper, on the positions of scientists considered and the results of experiments. The concluding part of the essay should agree with the elements of expert opinion given in the text.

The conclusion of the essay should not contain fundamentally new facts - only generalizations of those mentioned earlier.

The stylistics of the conclusion should match the stylistics of the entire paper. If the paper is written in a dry scientific style, you should not add artistic means to the conclusion, otherwise it will look foreign, artificially attached rather than an organic continuation. Similarly, if a journalistic style has been taken as the basis: the conclusion should not be significantly more rigorous.

Don't overreact with the phrases "In my humble opinion," "Even though I'm not an expert," and the like. These look like excuses and insecurities.

The main thing is for the reader to understand that the essay is finished, the logical conclusion is present; so that there is no feeling that the author wrote-wrote, and then he was distracted, and the work was left unfinished.

Types of conclusion in an essay

There are several approaches to how to end an essay:

Rhetorical question. If the essay was written in the form of questions and answers, you can end it with a rhetorical question that forces the reader to think about what he or she has read and formulate a conclusion for himself or herself.

Example 1

A rhetorical question does not suggest a specific answer, such as: "How much longer will our people tolerate the blatant injustice?" does not imply a "Three years and two months" style answer, but hints that it is time for something to change.

Summarizing the author's position. A classic way to end a text. It is enough to simply summarize the conclusion arising from the above.

Example 2

The conclusion of this type can begin with the words "So", "Thus", "Having analyzed ... we can conclude".

It is not very typical for academic essays, but some social topics can be revealed with such a conclusion, for example: "Let's start with ourselves and quit smoking already tomorrow", "Pick up the phone and just call the closest person - and the world will be a little better".

Using a quote. It is much easier to put a quote in the epigraph, but sometimes it is appropriate and in the conclusion: "As we see, even today remains true Lermontov's "...country of slaves, country of lords."

Ring Composition. The conclusion should resonate with the introduction. The simplest version: the introduction poses a question, the conclusion answers it: "It is now safe to say that ...".

Methods of writing conclusions in an essay

The method of writing conclusions should be chosen long before you finish the essay - preferably before you start working on the text at all. Examples of methods:

While writing the main body of the essay, sketch out ideas for the conclusion. When putting forward and justifying a new thesis statement, briefly write it down on a separate piece of paper - then by the end of the main body, you'll have a prepared conclusion.

Imagine a reader asking the question, "So what?" Explain to him with the conclusion why the whole text was read to him for a reason, what he should learn for himself.

Try to bring the reader to a higher level of awareness of your work. Do not just mechanically repeat what was said before, but make him want to answer you, argue or share his experience.

Formatting the conclusion in an essay

One of the aspects of how to write a conclusion in an essay is the formatting. The formatting of the conclusion in an essay is extremely simple:

No heading ("conclusion," "conclusions," or similar) is required. You don't even need to start the conclusion on a new page. It is enough to complete the thought (which makes up the last part of the main body of the paper) and move smoothly to the formulation of conclusions.

The conclusion begins with a new paragraph without special dividers (there is no need to cross it out or use other means).

The length of the conclusion should be commensurate with the essay itself. If the essay is three pages long, it is inappropriate to allocate one and a half of them to the conclusion. According to the general principle, the length of the conclusion should be 5-10% of the volume of the work; accordingly, in a three-page essay, it should be about one-third of a page.