

## Conclusion Writing

The conclusion, the last paragraph of the essay, wraps up the essay by bringing it to a logical end.

### Hints about Writing Conclusions:

To write a good concluding paragraph, it is important to consider the hints listed below:

- a. Start the conclusion with conclusion transition signals *in conclusion, to sum up, to end with*.
- b. Rewrite the thesis statement in different words.
- c. Write a summary of the main points discussed in the main body to remind the reader of the key ideas of the essay.
- d. Finish with a strong, important point about the subject of the essay that you would like your readers to think of or remember very well.

### Things to Avoid in Conclusion Writing:

There are only two don'ts to remember in writing conclusions:

- a. do not add further relevant details, facts, explanations, statistics...etc (those data should be included in the body paragraphs).
- b. do not introduce new topics, information, or arguments (only the ideas that were developed in the essay are summed up and used in the conclusion)

### Practice Activity 1:

Read the following "skeleton" essay (only the thesis statement and topic sentences for the body paragraphs are given) and the two possible concluding paragraphs, then answer the questions that follow:

#### 1. Thesis statement:

Although not everyone experiences culture shock in exactly the same way, many experts agree that it has roughly five stages.

#### 2. Topic sentences for body paragraphs:

- a. In the first stage, you experience excitement towards the new environment.
- b. You know that you are in the second stage of culture shock when differences in behaviour and customs become more noticeable to you.
- c. In the third stage, you no longer have positive feelings about the new culture.
- d. Sooner or later, you have negative feelings about almost everything; this is the fourth stage of culture shock.

e. Finally, you reach the fifth stage when your language skills improve, and you begin to have some success in meeting people and in negotiating situations.

**A.**

To sum up, culture shock is a very real phenomenon that has been studied for more than 30 years by psychologists and anthropologist. Its five phases are (1) positive feelings toward the new culture, (2) awareness of small differences, (3) growing discomfort and need for contact with home culture, (4) negative feelings, and (5) acceptance and adjustment. Symptoms may vary, and not all people experience all five phases. In the end, however, people who suffer from culture shock are stronger from having overcome the difficulties and frustrations of adapting to life in a new land.

**B.**

In conclusion, nearly everyone moving to a new country feels some degree of culture shock. Symptoms may vary, and not all people experience all five stages. Newcomers with a strong support group may feel at home immediately in the new culture, while others may take months to feel comfortable. Staying in touch with friends and family, keeping a positive attitude, and, above all, learning the language as soon as possible are ways to overcome the difficulties and frustrations of adapting to life in a new land.

1. Which concluding paragraph is a summary of the subtopics? Which one paraphrases the thesis statement?
2. Which concluding paragraph gives suggestions? Which one makes a prediction?

**Activity 2: Writing Conclusions**

Now write a conclusion for each "skeleton" essay below:

**1. Thesis Statement:**

Communication in a foreign language can create some embarrassing misunderstandings.

**2. Topic Sentences of the Body Paragraphs:**

- a. Mispronouncing words can lead to real embarrassment.
- b. Misunderstanding what someone says to you can create amusing problems.
- c. Misusing vocabulary can make you blush.

**3. Conclusion:**

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**1. Thesis Statement:**

A person can learn to control stress in three ways.

**2. Topic Sentences of the Body Paragraphs:**

- a. A good way to reduce stress is to set realistic goals.
- b. Another way has to do with regular exercise.
- c. It may surprise some people to learn that maintaining close relationships with family and friends is effective in reducing stress.

**3. Conclusion:**

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