

# Pedagogish Infobase

## Planning Your Conclusion

Every writing assignment needs a concluding paragraph. Your conclusion has important work to do. Here's a brief look at what a good conclusion does.

1. *Restate your thesis*

In a sentence or two, reiterate your topic and restate your thesis.

2. *Briefly summarize your argument*

Restating your own topic sentences from each of your body paragraphs is a good and easy way to create a brief summary of your argument. Try not to simply cut and paste; revise your sentences so you are not repeating yourself word for word.

3. *State an implication (this is a TOUGH one)*

The conclusion of a college-level paper does more than simply summarize. Ideally, you should state an implication; that is, suggest how your argument is relevant to a broader social, cultural, or historical context. This is not an easy task; don't feel discouraged if it takes you a while to get the hang of writing a good implication sentence.

*Example of a concluding paragraph:*

In this essay, I have explored various policy options for controlling greenhouse gas emissions and have argued that a cap and trade system is the best choice for the United States. A cap and trade system reduces harmful emissions by providing market-based incentives rather than imposing strict government mandates. This type of system meets the objectives both of environmentalists and of the businesses that produce emissions. Understanding the risks and benefits of a cap and trade system is important for the field of public policy because climate change is one of the most serious challenges facing environmentalists, economists, and government officials today.

The **Pedagogish Infobase** includes many other Infosheets that can help you with your writing assignment.

If you want more information on organizing your paper, you might want to try: Infosheet #1, Organizing Your Paper; Infosheet #2, Planning Your Introduction; or Infosheet #3, Planning the Body of Your Paper.