

## How to Write a Conclusion

Never underestimate the value of a powerful conclusion. The conclusion is the last piece of an essay that the reader will see, and therefore is frequently what remains in the readers' mind once they put the essay down. If you do not conclude effectively, the reader's opinion of the essay may be swayed.

Your conclusion synthesizes all that you have written into a coherent and persuasive essay. The conclusion is closing remarks according to one of the four types of conclusion:

1. Appropriately extend or modify (e.g., reiterate) the Claim
2. Recognize and effectively account for disparate, sometimes contradictory evidence from primary sources and/or secondary works in crafting a coherent argument
3. Connect the claim to the larger significance of the historical event (e.g., the larger significance of the French Revolution)
4. Appropriately connect your claim to other historical periods, geographical areas, contexts, or circumstances

### **Practice:**

#### Type 1: Extend or Modify the Claim

Reiterate each of the following thesis sentences in the space below. Maintain clarity and keep the same meaning, but do not rewrite the same sentence.

1. Seatbelts are lifesavers and must be required wear for anyone inside a motor vehicle.
2. The writings of Nathaniel Hawthorne and Henry David Thoreau show that these men could not be more different in their views on humanity.
3. Bathroom breaks are necessary for students and should be allowed by teachers whenever the student deems necessary.

#### Type 3: Connect the claim to the larger significance

Below is an introduction for an essay with the topic being *destruction of rainforests*. You are to write a **TYPE #3 conclusion** to this essay.

*A never before seen species of insect is discovered, and put into extinction the same day. Rainforests are being depleted at an alarming rate throughout the*

*world. South and Central America, as well as other tropical locations in Asia and elsewhere, are losing rainforest land the size of the state of Washington every year. Without rainforests we will lose many valuable natural resources, immeasurable species of birds and animals, and possible cures to diseases through tropical plants. This senseless destruction must be stopped before the overall quality of life on our planet takes a serious turn for the worse.*

Identify the Type:

For each of the example conclusions on the beginning of the American Revolution (below), underline and label the *type of conclusion*

Example A:

“Britain’s triumph over the French empire may have led to a predominantly British North America, but in the long run it did not prove to be the most long-lasting win. The new sense of identity and eventual “taxation without representation” in the colonies would propel them towards a war for independence, and an eventual loss of the large empire that had just recently been put into full effect. These shortcomings may have all been avoided had the French been the eventual victors, which in hindsight put the British in a fairly large lose-lose scenario.”

Example B:

“Because the British government was incredibly constraining on the colonists, the colonies’ inhabitants felt a need to be liberated from the clutches of the prodigious and looming authority that was the British government. The colonists’ feelings of seceding with Britain were strong enough to overwhelm the British government, and they were unable to regain control of them. This had also been a problem with other areas such as South America seceding from Spain after feeling so constrained by the government and their policies, which led to the Spanish revolution in Latin and South America. A ruling and constraining government can easily lead to a seceding daughter country.”

To Write a Type #2 Conclusion:

Write what you would plan to do to create a type #2 conclusion that accounts for disparate (in disagreement with) evidence on lessons from the Russian Revolution.