

# Conclusions



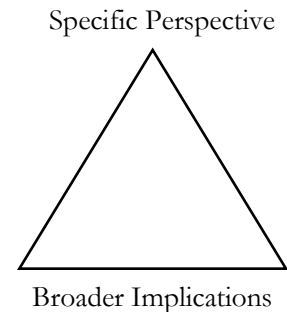
Conclusions reemphasize the important aspects of your work, offer a clear purpose for your writing, and provide closure for your readers. This handout provides basic principles, but always tailor your work to your audience and assignment.

## Remind Readers of Your Main Points

- Remind the audience of your main points in a way that confirms the thesis and main purpose of your work.
- Rather than merely repeating your thesis, synthesize the information and evidence to show how your main points work together.

## Explain the Implications of Your Work

- Address the implications, or purpose, of your work to ensure readers feel like what they have read *matters*. Don't leave your audience thinking, *So what?* or wondering what action or stance you propose.
- Indicate how the main points help readers understand the topic better.
- Show what other topics your paper might shed light on or what work remains for others to address.



## Provide a Sense of Closure

- Readers should feel the paper is complete and that it leaves them something to think about.
- Try not to close your paper abruptly (e.g., "In conclusion . . ."), but provide a fluid and logical transition from the body of your work until the end. Referencing something you said in your introduction is a good way to provide a sense of closure in your conclusion, since it ties your initial point to the body of your work.
- Maintain your readers' interest by ending with the same tone and energy you began with.

## Example

While most history books paint Michelangelo's *David* as a symbol of Florence, this heroic sculpture could also be seen as a symbol of the artist's struggle. From the challenge of continuing the decade-old prophet series begun by Donatello, to the difficulties of the physical size and defects of the block of Carrara marble, Michelangelo's feat of sculpting the *David* mirrored the triumph of the young Biblical hero himself. It marked the beginning of an unparalleled career that continues to inspire artists and viewers alike. Michelangelo's *David* ultimately rises above the boundaries of impossibility as a symbol of unprecedented human achievement.

Reminder of thesis

Specific claims

Implications