

(last updated 5/17/16)

In order to construct a thorough concluding paragraph, study your introductory paragraph to determine its precise construction and focus.¹ Then, skip to the bottom of your paper and begin your concluding paragraph, referring back to your introductory paragraph and keeping its points in mind.

When revising your conclusion and/or your entire paper, ask yourself or a peer, “Do the ideas and opinions in my introduction match those in my conclusion? Do I show in my conclusion that I have addressed the issues and questions that my introduction raised?” When doing a final revision, read **only** the introductory and concluding paragraphs to further evaluate the conciseness of your ideas. Do the two paragraphs sound similar in thought, opinion, and focus?

Options for constructing an effective conclusion:²

STEP:	EXAMPLE:
<i>Rephrase the thesis, this time indicating a clear course of action and/or implications for the future.</i>	If the citizens of the United States want to retain the power of governing themselves, they need to become proactive. Citizens can write their congressional representatives and explain what they would like to see done. They can also start petitions and campaigns for campaign finance reform. If their representatives do not listen to them, they have the power, in the next election, to vote for someone who does listen.
<i>Conclude by summarizing the main points discussed.</i>	While banning soft money, limiting personal expenditures, and increasing individual limits will not completely fix the current campaign finance system, those steps will take society in the right direction
<i>Emphasize the central idea by referring back to the introduction.</i>	These reforms will create an equal playing field for the upper, middle, and lower class citizens and place greater emphasis on the constituents.

¹ A good writer always checks his or her introduction for accuracy and thoroughness before perfecting the conclusion. See tip sheet on Introductions for further assistance.

² The above conclusion examples are adapted from a *Scriblerian* essay contest winner’s paper entitled “The Need for Campaign Finance Reform” by John D. Bunkall.