

## Conclusion

The conclusion is an account of the body—it focuses on the outcomes of the argumentation. It constitutes the last 10% of a paper and consists of two sections: the summary and the final thought.

Because the reader's final impression will influence his or her perception of the rest of the paper, the conclusion is your chance to reaffirm your position in a convincing way.

### Summary

The conclusion's first task is to summarize the arguments that were presented in the body of the paper by focusing on the connections between the main ideas and the thesis. All the partial conclusions that have been made must be restated in a more official and cohesive way in order to convince the reader of their validity.

A strong summary reaffirms the thesis and highlights the strengths of the paper. Only the most compelling ideas should be selected. Do not introduce new arguments like: "The exotic animal trade also plays a vital part in this issue."

### Final thought

The conclusion's second task is to make a final comment that supports the thesis in a memorable way. The closing lines of a paper must therefore place the thesis in a larger context by showing its significance within the field of study.

**Here are a few ways of ending the paper:**

Answer a question that was asked in the introduction.

We seem to find industrial expansion more important than environmental issues not simply because of self-interest, but because of short-sightedness as well. Indeed, it is partly because we do not bother to think of long-term consequences that we destroy such important ecosystems.

Illustrate your position with a relevant image.

Instead of a rainforest filled with life, imagine a vast pit of rotting tree stumps and animal carcasses. This is the inevitable effect of the extinction of the red-tailed swallow. It has already begun, through clear-cutting practices and corkscrew beetle infestations, and it has to stop before it is too late.

Make a prediction or propose a solution.

In order to save the red-tailed swallow, we must halt the destruction of its habitat and provide compensation for the inhabitants of Ungolu. If we do not act quickly, there will soon be no rainforest left to speak of, and the inhabitants of the area will be even worse off than before the introduction of logging practices.

To know more, see *Checkmate*, *The Little, Brown Handbook*, the *Simon & Schuster Handbook for Writers*, or similar writing guides.

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## Example

### **Summary:** Human encroachment, ecosystem survival, and possible solutions

In the end, there is no way to deny the seriousness of this environmental threat. If the current clear-cutting practices continue, the Ungolu rainforest will be unable to support the red-tailed swallow, and it will become extinct within a year. Without this bird, the tree-eating corkscrew beetle will have nothing to stop its spread, and it will disrupt the rainforest's ecosystem even further. Although the inhabitants of the area request the commercialization of land and wood to ensure the economic development of Ungolu, initiatives with regards to ecotourism and biological agriculture can be pursued to ensure both the growth of the economy and the survival of the red-tailed swallow. Because of the dire environmental consequences of its extinction, it is vital that this species be preserved—and it is possible to do so with a reasonable amount of effort and resources. . . .

### **Final thought:** Influence of northern countries

. . . Indeed, the best way to encourage the inhabitants of the area to let the Ungolu rainforest recover is for northern countries to stop purchasing the products obtained from logging practices and to subsidize the local initiatives discussed in this paper. Otherwise, there is no motivation for the local population to make a significant change. If we do not act quickly and decisively, there will soon be no rainforest left to speak of, and the inhabitants of the area will be even worse off than before the introduction of logging practices.

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