



Writing a Conclusion

The purpose of a conclusion is to summarise the main points of your essay. It is your last opportunity to bring together what you have been saying, and to make your opinion, and your understanding of the topic, very clear to your examiner.

A conclusion should always:

- Highlight the key argument presented in the essay.
- Summarise the answer to the essay question, as signalled in the introduction.
- Refer back to the essay question to show that it has been answered.
- Reinforce the main theme of the essay, which has been established in the introduction.

A conclusion should never:

- Bring in new information or topics that have not been discussed in the body of the essay.
- As a general rule, avoid using in-text references in a conclusion. Like the introduction, the conclusion should confirm YOUR understanding of, and approach to, the essay topic.



- Remember, the purpose of the conclusion is to restate the goal, and reinforce the outcome, of the essay. Having your introduction at hand will enable you to do this more easily. It will help to remind you of the central focus of the essay, and of the key words that you should be integrating into your conclusion to remind to the examiner that you have answered the question!
- It helps to include the key terms from your topic sentences, in the same order that they appear in your essay.
- Remember to include the key words from the question, particularly in the final sentence of your conclusion!

Structuring a Conclusion:

Hypothetical question: *Critically discuss the ways social inclusion and exclusion impact upon your chosen focus social group in education and outline some ways teachers can support the educational needs of those students.*

Significant social exclusion is experienced by ATSI students, as evidenced by the academic achievement gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.	RETURN TO QUESTION/TOPIC
Efforts are being made to reduce this gap , and although such aims are often regarded as unachievable, they highlight a necessary move towards a more inclusive education system.	RESTATE THESIS
[1] Recent changes to the curriculum incorporate both Aboriginal perspective and Aboriginal content to NSW syllabuses. [2] Similarly, several pedagogical frameworks have been developed to facilitate more effective teaching of ATSI students. While these strategies are still in the developmental process, they articulate	SUMMARY OF IDEAS DISCUSSED (IN ORDER).
a contemporary desire for the education system to support the diverse and complex educational needs of ATSI students.	STRONG CONCLUDING STATEMENT [restating thesis]

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