

Concluding Paragraphs

The concluding paragraph is an important part of your article. It serves two purposes:

1. to summarize the main points you wrote about in the body of your work
2. to encourage the reader to want to learn more about your subject.

The following is an example I might use with my article on the Anasazi.

The Anasazi were a complex and fascinating culture who lived in the southwestern part of the United States for centuries. They evolved from nomadic hunter/gatherers to farmers who grew corns, beans and squash and raised turkeys as well. As the Anasazi learned how to adapt to the harsh desert environment, their living quarters changed from simple pit houses to the elaborate cliff dwellings such as Cliff Palace and the Balcony House located in Mesa Verde National Park. Around 1280 C.E., the Anasazi appear to have simply walked away from these incredible feats of architecture, and no one knows exactly why. If you get a chance to visit Mesa Verde, you cannot help but wonder what drove them to leave their homelands.

Please use the following checklist when composing your concluding paragraph:

- Your conclusion needs to summarize the main points in your article _____
- Your conclusion should be 4-5 sentences long _____
- Your conclusion should attempt to make the reader want to learn more about your topic _____
- Do **not** introduce any new information in your conclusion _____
- Do **not** thank your audience for reading your work _____
- Do **not** write "The End" or "Thank you for reading my paper" or something like that _____