

Finishing Up

The main aims of the final paragraph of your text are to provide a sense of composed closure and leave your reader with a positive final impression. Being the final section, it may well be the part that your reader will remember most clearly. Managing your writing time is an important element of the final Test of this course, so it is vital that you reflect on what you want to state in your final paragraph during the planning stages. Make sure you do not run out of time during the writing stages and simply tag on a couple of lines at the end of your essay in the name of concluding your argument. The reader of an academic text has certain expectations regarding a conclusion and may expect this final section to do some or all of the following:

- rephrase the question
- briefly reflect on the main ideas
- indicate where your opinion lies in the debate.

What the reader does not expect is new information in the final paragraph of an academic text. No new idea should ever be added in a final paragraph, simply because you have thought of it at the end of the writing process! The effect on the reader would considerably weaken the impact of the points made in the previous paragraphs. The conclusion is very similar to the introduction, insomuch that the lexical items you chose to include are very important. However, you should avoid repeating the same words. You should refer to the synonyms and related words you listed during your planning stages. The introduction and conclusion operate as a pair of brackets which envelop your ideas, opening and closing your discussion of the topic in question. They should function in unison and the same academic voice should be heard in both sections. When rounding off your text, you may choose to briefly give your own opinion, although this should not be a lengthy discourse as your main points will have been explained in the core part of your text. Consider the two essay titles below and their brief conclusions.

1. Product testing on animals should be prohibited

The need to make sure that animals used for testing new products have the minimum of suffering is an opinion that has gathered considerable support in recent years. It is clearly inhumane to use and abuse animals in experiments, yet there are those who claim strongly that animal testing is necessary, and that such forms of testing will continue to benefit humans in many ways and push the barriers of medical knowledge and further research in many scientific fields. In a discussion of this type, a mid-way solution is extremely difficult to achieve as both sides present convincing arguments, both a ethical and practical nature.

2. Physical punishment is an inappropriate way to control children's behaviour

In conclusion, there are many people who claim that physical punishment can be a useful method of discipline. However, I personally believe it should be the last choice for parents. If we want to build a world with less violence we must begin at home, and we must teach our children to be responsible and not consider aggressive actions the correct way to solve problems. Leading by example, it is claimed, is the best way to educate, so that is what positive parenting should be about.

Visit a range of sites to learn more about writing conclusion paragraphs. Examples are:

https://library.leeds.ac.uk/info/478/essay_writing/333/essay_writing/6

<https://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/ld/resources/writing/diagnostic/p/pconclusiontoanessay>

<https://aso-resources.une.edu.au/academic-writing-course/paragraphs/conclusion-paragraphs/>

Editing

Editing well is a skill which should be developed during your academic career. This stage in the writing process is crucial and its importance is very often underestimated by students during this third Test. The inability to manage time is usually the reason why students are unable to edit their work effectively: leave time to check, revise and consider your final text. Some students prefer to revise their work on completion of each paragraph. This is also a good way of ensuring that you have not made any grammatical errors or spelling slips along the way. However, it is vital that you re-read the whole of your text before you hand in your work. Understanding the mechanics of your text and the effect your text will have on your reader should be your final considerations during the writing process.

Knowing who you are as a writer is part of your development as a language student: before you sit the Test make a checklist of aspects you will need to check for during the editing stages and use this mental checklist during the final reading of your text. Time used to count the number of words used is time wasted. Instead, consider your work in an academic fashion, and check for your favourite errors.