

## How to Write a Conclusion For a Research Paper

The following examples help illustrate what an effective research paper conclusion looks like and what an ineffective and disorganized conclusion looks like. The examples can help you outline and form your conclusion.

### Good example

An effective conclusion will contain all five elements of summing up your research paper. Here is an example:

"Clean water is imperative to maintaining ecological balance and protecting the public's health. The increase in water pollution since 2010 has contributed to the decrease in aquatic wildlife as well as the increase in unsafe drinking water. With the growth of sugar farming, more and more pollutants are entering our freshwater supplies. This increase in pollution has contributed to massive decreases in marine life, fish die-off, increased respiratory illness in neighborhood populations and has contributed to the shortage of clean drinking water.

Ecologists and marine biologists are continuing to measure the water quality, and researchers are continuing to find ways to combat the pollution run-off from commercial farms. In the future, the EPA hopes this research will lead to a decrease in the pollutant concentration in our freshwater systems. If we cannot combat the ill effects that commercial farming has on our clean water, our freshwater ecosystems and drinking water supplies will surely diminish. More research and innovation are needed to maintain our clean water while still supporting the agricultural needs of our economy."

### Bad example

In this example, some elements are missing and the thesis statement is not clear. Here is what a disorganized and ineffective conclusion might look like:

"Pollution can kill fish and people. Drinking water becomes unsanitary and unsafe with pollution. If we do not fix the state of our freshwater systems, our health can suffer. Researchers are still trying to help, but they have not resolved the issue of the water pollution. As citizens, it is our responsibility to help keep our waters clean and avoid polluting rivers, lakes and oceans."

While it is possible to tell from this conclusion that the topic may have been water pollution, there is no clear statement of the topic. Additionally, it is difficult to tell whether the first sentence is even a thesis statement.

When you write your conclusion, consider the type of conclusion you are writing, and include each element that is appropriate for your conclusion type. By following each step, you can format and write an effective and impactful concluding paragraph for your research paper.