

Goals of an Effective Conclusion for an Analysis / Argument essay:

Summarize and/or wrap up discussion / argument / analysis

Give closure: to *sound* like the end, to the eye and the ear

Actually have some *conclusion* in logic, an *outcome*, an *effect* of all the causes discussed (as opposed to merely *reiterating* what has already been said in the paper—there's two meanings to the word 'conclusion': one meaning is 'to end,' and another is 'an outcome,' a 'therefore.' The best conclusions are both of these definitions, and not just the first one.)

Pitfalls of conclusions:

Redundancy

Redundancy

Simple summary

Boring

Introducing new ideas that leave the previous discussion unfinished

Possible Strategies for Effective Conclusions:

NOTE: These strategies are a starting place. They just give suggestions for how to begin formulating an effective conclusion. The bulk of your actual conclusion paragraph will depend on the specifics of your essay, but these are some strategies to begin formulate a conclusion and to signal to the reader that this is the end of the paper. Start with one of these suggestions and let it grow from there.

1. the "It's organic, man. I can't tell you how; just let it grow out of the paper" method
2. the "connect with a phrase, quote or image from the introduction" method
3. the "culminating example" method
4. the "inverse thesis or inverse main ideas" method
5. the "new context" method, in which you review the topics but in a new context
6. your own idea:

Practice:

Intro: In the 1960's and '70's, Second-Wave Feminist gained national recognition. Marches and rallies were held. Media outlets gave more attention to issues important to American women. Membership in NOW grew. Many were reacting against what they saw as a patriarchal society that in both overt and subtle ways diminished the worth and voice of women, as individuals and collectively. This 50-years-ago struggle is not, unfortunately, a new one. In the 1850's, Nathaniel Hawthorne chose just such a society to set his historical novel *The Scarlet Letter*. Here, the woman society condemns endures great hardships—hardships into which her fellow sinner—a man—is not forced. She suffers injustice and double standards, but she refuses to give up or to give in. By the end of the book, the town and the reader can agree that Hester has triumphed. Her determination and sense of dignity gave her the strength to overcome what the patriarchy did. As a whole, the novel argues that in order to overcome the injustices of a patriarchal society, an individual does not first destroy the system, but rather works within it, using it against itself, relying on her own determination and sense of self to eventually achieve a position from which real change is possible. Hester's model, though hundreds of years old, can provide one possible path forward for today. [End of Intro]

FIRST TOPIC: Hester's character, her 'sin' and her relationships

SECOND TOPIC: how her fellow lover avoids punishment

THIRD TOPIC: how the patriarchal Puritan society seeks to punish and ostracize her

FOURTH TOPIC: what she relies on: determination and sense of dignity, to endure

FIFTH TOPIC: how Hester's success can be measured / observed

NOW, AS PRACTICE, WRITE A CONCLUSION using one the techniques outlined above on the front:
