

University of Tikrit

College of Education for Humanities

Department of English



Concluding Sentence

Academic Writing

First year

Assistant Lecturer: Mediha Khalid

2025-2026

Concluding Sentence

1) Introduction

In academic writing, a paragraph must be clear, organized and complete. Each academic paragraph consists of three essential parts: the topic sentence, supporting sentence and concluding sentence. This lecture focuses on the concluding sentence, which plays a crucial role in completing a paragraph and reinforcing its main idea.

Topic and concluding sentences help organize and focus your body paragraphs, which helps the flow of your paper. Tip! Topic and concluding sentences should not include quotations. Topic Sentences Topic sentences are usually the first sentence of a body paragraph. These sentences act like a mini thesis; they are not factual statements and should introduce the main point or idea of the paragraph to your reader. They should also support your overall thesis. Tip! Include a key word from your introductory paragraph in your topic sentence. All of the evidence you discuss in the body of your paragraph should support your topic sentence.

2) What is a Concluding Sentence

A concluding sentence is the final sentence of an academic paragraph. It summarizes the main idea of the paragraph or provides a final comment related to it. The concluding sentence signals to the reader that the paragraph has come to an end.

In academic writing. A concluding sentence should be clear, relevant, and connected to the topic sentence.

3) Functions of a Concluding Sentence

- **Summarize:** Condenses the paragraph's key points and main argument.
- **Reinforce:** Restates the topic sentence's core idea using different words, emphasizing the paragraph's purpose.
- **Provide Closure:** Signals the paragraph's end, giving the reader a sense of finality.
- **Transition:** Bridges to the next paragraph by creating a smooth connection between ideas.
- **Offer Insight (Optional):** Can make a brief prediction, suggestion, or observation related to the topic, adding depth without introducing new information.

Without a concluding sentence, a paragraph may feel incomplete or weak.

Transitioning Between Paragraphs

Topic sentences can help transition to a new paragraph by making mention of the previous paragraph's main idea. A common way to structure your transitioning topic sentence is: linking word/phrase + previous paragraph's main idea + linking word/phrase + new topic or argument. Example: In addition to [linking phrase] + having a smaller carbon footprint than dogs [previous paragraph's main idea], + cats are also [linking phrase] + more cost effective for owners [new topic or argument].

Concluding Sentences A concluding sentence is the last sentence of a paragraph. It should firmly close your paragraph or argument. These sentences support your thesis and mirror your topic sentence, but often go one step further by including a major point from the body of your paragraph. Example: Because dogs consume more food than cats, cats have a smaller carbon footprint than dogs, which makes them the more sensible pet.

4) Characteristics of a Concluding Sentence

- **Signals Closure:** Uses transition words (e.g., *in conclusion, therefore, in short*) to tell the reader the paragraph is ending.
- **Restates Main Idea:** Rephrases the topic sentence using different words or sentence structure, not exact wording.
- **Summarizes:** Briefly touches upon the main supporting points mentioned in the paragraph.
- **Provides Finality:** Offers a concluding thought, opinion, advice, or a "so what?" moment, leaving the reader with a sense of completeness.
- **Avoids New Ideas:** Does not introduce any new topics or information.

5) Importance of Concluding Sentence

The concluding sentence is important because it:

Complete the paragraph.

Strengthens the main idea.

Improves coherence and unity.

Leaves a clear impression on the reader.

6)Types of Concluding Sentence

. Restatement of the main idea: this type restates the topic sentence using different words.

Example.

-In conclusion, academic writing is a vital skill for university students.

. Summary of supporting points: this type briefly summarizes the main supporting ideas.

Example.

-Thus, clear organization, formal language, and logical ideas make academic writing effective.

.Final comment or suggestion: this type gives a final comment related to the topic.

Example.

-Therefore, students should practice academic writing regularly to improve their skills.

Benefits of a strong concluding sentence include:

- **Synthesizes Information:** It brings together the evidence presented in the paragraph to provide a clear, final takeaway.
- **Reinforces the Main Point:** It echoes the topic sentence but in different words, strengthening the central argument.
- **Provides Closure:** It signals the end of a thought, preventing the paragraph from feeling incomplete.
- **Adds Insight or Impact:** It can offer a final thought, make a prediction, offer a recommendation, or show the importance of the topic discussed.
- **Improves Flow:** It helps connect the current paragraph to the next one, improving the overall logical flow of an essay.

To maximize effectiveness, a concluding sentence should not introduce new evidence, but rather summarize what has already been discussed in a concise manner.

7) Examples of Concluding Sentence in Paragraphs

Example (1) Topic Sentence:

Academic writing is important for university students.

Supporting Sentences: It helps students organize their ideas and express them clearly. In addition, academic writing develops critical thinking skills.

Concluding Sentence: Therefore, academic writing plays a key role in student academic success.

Example (2) Concluding Sentence only:

In summary, effective time management helps students achieve better academic performance.

Conclusion of this lecture: the conclusion sentence is an essential part of an academic paragraph. It summarizes the main idea, reinforces the topic, and provides closure. By writing clear and effective concluding sentences, first-year students can greatly improve their academic writing skills.