



Palm Beach Atlantic University  
Center for Writing Excellence

## Crafting Conclusions

At the Center for Writing Excellence, we are frequently asked how to form a conclusion paragraph. If you're struggling to write your conclusion, the good news is that all of the information you will need is in the introduction and body of your essay. The conclusion will essentially mirror the introduction paragraph. Let's take a look at some important points to include in your conclusion.

### Restate Thesis:

This is the most important point to make in your conclusion. You can restate your thesis as if you have already proved it to be true. For example, if your original thesis is:

*"In order to prevent future plane crashes, all commercial jetliners should have live-streaming surveillance,"*

Then your restated thesis could be...

*"As can be seen, having live-streaming surveillance on commercial jetliners can help prevent future plane crashes."*

Do not copy your thesis word for word; instead, think of a creative way to rephrase the sentence into a new one with the same meaning.

### Briefly List Main Points:

This technique involves listing the main supporting points you made in the body of your essay. Often, you will have already listed these points in your introduction, and they can be simply restated here. An example of listing your main points is as follows:

*"As can be seen, having live-streaming surveillance on commercial jetliners can help prevent future plane crashes. This is possible because streaming surveillance allows airport controllers to better direct air-traffic, take action in case of an emergency, and learn from previous mistakes."*

It is important to only include points that you made previously made in your essay. Do not include any new information here. You may choose to expand each of your main points into a complete sentence. This will lengthen your conclusion; however, do not give too much detail for any one point.

### **End with a Bang:**

Often, a good way to finish your conclusion is by writing a thought-provoking question or statement. You may provide a small amount of new information here, but it is important to keep it brief. You can use this section of your conclusion to tell your readers why your thesis statement matters. Some examples of thought-provoking statements and questions are as follows:

- Statement: *If MA Flight 370 would have had live-streaming surveillance, there would be no question of how the plane crashed.*
  - Question: *What useful information could have been gleaned from the crash of MA Flight 370 if the plane had been equipped with live-streaming surveillance?*
  
- Statement: *Plane crashes kill between 500 and 2,500 people per year (planecrashinfo.com); therefore, it is important to know what is happening when a plane crashes.*
  - Question: *How many deaths might be preventable if it was better understood how planes crash?*

### **Be Creative:**

Once you understand the formula for crafting a conclusion, use your creativity to keep the conclusion from sounding too dry. Rephrase your thesis to sound interesting, yet specific. Keep your main points short and supportive. Ask yourself why your topic is important, then think of a way to express that importance to your readers.

### **Sample Conclusion:**

*As can be seen, having live-streaming surveillance on commercial jetliners can help prevent future plane crashes. This is possible because streaming surveillance allows airport controllers to better direct air-traffic, take action in case of an emergency, and learn from previous mistakes. Plane crashes kill between 500 and 2,500 people per year (planecrashinfo.com); therefore, it is important to know what is happening when a plane crashes. How many deaths might be preventable if it was better understood how planes crash? The only way to be certain is by knowing what is happening on a plane at all times, and this can only be accomplished through live-streaming surveillance.*