**Writing the Conclusion to Your Paper**

It is important to have a strong conclusion, since this is the last chance you have to make an impression on your reader. The goal of your conclusion is not to introduce any new ideas, but to sum up everything you have written. Specifically, your conclusion should accomplish three major goals:

* Restate the main idea of your essay, or your thesis statement (first sentence)
* Summarize the three sub points of your essay
* Leave the reader with an interesting final impression

The paragraph below is an example conclusion. As you read, think about what each sentence accomplishes within the paragraph. What sentence(s) restates the essay’s thesis statement? What sentence(s) summarizes the essay’s three sub points? What sentence(s) leaves the reader with an interesting final impression?

Getting a better job is a goal that everyone should want to accomplish in the next few years. Finishing school will help people meet this goal. To meet this goal of getting a job, people should also prepare their résumés and search for jobs. This goal may not be an easy one to achieve, but things that are worth doing are often not easy.

Notice that the first sentence restates the thesis. The second and third sentences summarize the essay’s sub points. Finally, the fourth sentence leaves the reader with an interesting final impression.

No new information is presented in this paragraph. Instead, the writer sums up what has been written so far and leaves the reader with a last thought. While the content of the paragraph is very similar to the introduction, the paragraph itself is not exactly the same. This is important. Even though the goal of the conclusion is to restate a lot of the information from the introduction, it should sound different because the conclusion’s purpose is slightly different from the introduction.

Remember to support the points you have gathered. Remember to restate your thesis, summarize your sub points and leave the reader with an interesting final impression.