Conclusions for Capstone Paper

Sources

* Purdue OWL: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/724/04/>
* North Carolina Writing Center <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/conclusions/>

Purpose of a Conclusion

* To provide an overview or summary of your main ideas
* An abstract should summarize all of your work; whereas, a conclusion synthesizes your contribution to the literature. E.g. Highlighting components of your literature review need not be included in your conclusion, but may be necessary in an abstract.
* Conclusion moves the reader from the substantial details contained in the main body of your work to more general ideas that you want to leave the reader with
* A conclusion is a place where you can be provocative and let the reader consider ideas beyond your existing work

Writing an Effective Conclusion

* A conclusion should reiterate your main ideas in a concise and cohesive way
* Unlike an abstract, a conclusion need not stand alone and should synthesize earlier discussions
* Use the “So What?” or “Why do I care?” mantra to motivate the writing of your conclusion
* Also, consider using “the sum is much greater than each individual part” mantra, i.e. make sure the reader leaves with a holistic perspective of your work as the reader is unlikely to remember specific details
* Akin to abstracts, less specificity in your writing is appropriate for conclusions
* If a section is not devoted to “Future Research”, then a conclusion should contain such discussions

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| $$\begin{matrix}Conclusion&=&Synthesis\\&\ne &Summary\end{matrix}$$ | http://littlelearnersblog.files.wordpress.com/2013/05/synthesize.jpg |