

Writing a Conclusion

Structure of a Research Article

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Methods
- Results
- ***Discussion/Conclusion***

Why write a conclusion?

- Provides an overview/summary of your main ideas
- Moves the reader from the specific details contained in your paper to the general ideas you want to leave them with
- Allows you to be provocative and let the reader consider ideas beyond your existing work

A good conclusion should...

- provide an **overview of the main ideas** in a concise, cohesive way.
- **synthesize**, not summarize.
- leave the reader with a **holistic perspective** of your work.
- answer the questions, **“So what?”** or **“Why should I care?”**
- discuss ideas for future research