

Introductions and Conclusions



Think of Introductions and Conclusions as Bookends

- Your introductions and conclusions enclose the most important section of your essay: the body paragraphs. The body paragraphs are the “meat” of your essay, for this middle section is where you will layout your argument, offer evidence, examples, and information from credible sources.
- The introduction and conclusion paragraphs must serve very distinct purposes in your paper. Your introduction must entice the reader to read on and your conclusion paragraph must reiterate why they read the paper and compel the reader to be satisfied with the final product.

Always Revise the Introduction and Conclusion Paragraphs Before Submitting a Final Draft

- Check to make sure your introduction paragraph encapsulates the essay's primary point in a strong first paragraph, with a thesis-driven focus.
- For the conclusion, you would want to make sure to reiterate the primary points discussed in the paper and end with an answer to that all-important "So What?" question. The "So What" should answer the broader implications that go along with the essay's focus and thesis.

An Example of a Strong Introduction

We live in a get-rich-quick, slim-down-fast, make-it-easy-for-me society. There are ample opportunities to weasel through the cracks and do things the easy way. There is a multitude of prescription and over-the-counter fixes for every ailment a person may suffer from. Some of these bottled solutions are not always the smartest or safest remedy. Medications always come with the baggage of side effects, and most of them negative. Concerning the unwanted side effects of anti-depressants, weight-loss supplements, and sleeping aids, the first attempt at healing should begin with exercise because it's free, readily available to suit every individual's needs, and loaded with positive side effects.

An Example of a Strong Conclusion

To some, the idea of exercising every day is scary. There is always an excuse for why people fail to incorporate physical activity into their lifestyle: People are busy in the morning and tired at the end of the day, or gyms are expensive and not everyone can afford gym equipment at home. But exercise can start with taking the stairs instead of the elevator, or cleaning the kitchen floor on your hands and knees versus using a mop. Instead of shelling out hard-earned dollars in exchange for chemical results that may or may not happen, and unwanted side effects on our minds and bodies, our first course of action should be exercise. If all individuals dedicated themselves to moving their bodies, the collective output might create a new generation of people who are outside rather than inside, on a bike instead of their computer, and living longer and happier lives.

Introductions and Conclusions

