**Effective Conclusions**

In the same way that an introduction needs to start with a good hook to catch the attention of the reader, a good conclusion should end with a powerful concluding statement. The concluding statement is the writer’s last chance to persuade the reader. It leaves the reader with a final, provocative thought. There are many ways to write a memorable close to an essay. A concluding statement can be:

1. Instruction: what the reader can do about the issue

2. Prediction: an insight into how the future could be different, better, or worse.

3. Anecdote: a brief story that supports the essence of your topic.

4. Pointed Question: include a question that leaves the reader thinking.

5. Quote: write an interesting quote about the topic.

6. Clincher Statement: write a "clincher" statement that grabs the readers’ attention and drives the paper's message home

7. Echo: circle back to the lead (repeating phrase or idea)

**Clincher Statement**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Close with a statement that forcefully states your opinion.   |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | Example: A criminal, no matter his/her age, should be dealt with according to the crime. The legal system is too lenient when it comes to juvenile offenders. Laws need to be rewritten immediately so that no more hard core criminals go free just because they are juveniles.  **Final Quotation**       The cheating and plagiary problem among youngsters has become too serious to be neglected. The problem didn’t happen yesterday; the youngsters didn’t invent cheating. They have learned it from us. Dr. McCabe, a professor at Rutgers [University](http://palc.sd40.bc.ca/palc/StudentWriting/01-02/essaybodyconc.htm) said that he was struck by “how readily students place the blame for their cheating on societal problems and pressures.” As harsh as the accusation might be, being a member of the society, we can’t and shouldn’t escape the responsibility.  **Remedy or Instruction**       The number of youngsters who cheat has increased to an undesirable degree. As a parent, we should not ignore this problem; instead, we should try to convince our children that cheating has grave consequences and is totally unnecessary. We need to be more patient with their [academic](http://palc.sd40.bc.ca/palc/StudentWriting/01-02/essaybodyconc.htm) progress, and set a reasonable goal for them to achieve. Though being honest might seem to be disadvantageous, in the long run, it will prove to be worthwhile.  **Anecdote and Echo and (Pointed Question)**  Intro hook: Tyler Hagen did the right thing. When a friend asked the 13-year-old to dispose of a dime bag of marijuana, Tyler took the pot to his parents, who contacted the local sheriff to retrieve the grass. Tyler did exactly what he should have done. However, when school authorities learned Tyler’s hand had touched reefer while his feet were on school property, they suspended him for five days under the district’s strict new zero-tolerance policy.  Echoing Anecdote: Tyler Hagen was suspended for three days for doing the right thing. What kind of message is this zero-tolerance policy really sending our children?  **Prediction Conclusion:**  If people do not start walking more and driving less, perhaps evolution will take over and in time legs on humans will be but things of the past. | |