Writing a Conclusion Paragraph: DOs and DON'Ts

The DOs of Writing a Conclusion Paragraph:

- Restate your thesis. Except for KEY words, use different words than the thesis in your introduction paragraph.

- Summarize your main points (found in your topic sentences) using different words. Find a new way to express the same ideas.

- Give your ending emotional impact—end with a bang, not a whimper.

The DON'Ts of Writing a Conclusion Paragraph:

- Never say "in conclusion"—we know it's your conclusion!

- Don't repeat your thesis and topic sentences in the EXACT SAME words. Your conclusion is different from your introduction.

- Don't use phrases like "as you can see" or "I hope you have learned." Give your readers and yourself some credit. If it is a well-written essay, they will get the main point.

- Don't introduce new information in your conclusion. Your conclusion "says what you already said." It summarizes the information in your essay. If you stumble upon a new idea as you write your conclusion, try to include it in the body of your essay instead.
Sample Conclusion Paragraph

In this sample closing, the writer restates the thesis of his essay and reviews some of his main points. In addition, the final point emphasizes the importance of the subject.

The current driver education programs don't meet the needs of today's young drivers. What's needed are new, more extensive programs, producing young drivers who are much better prepared for the road and much less likely to have careless accidents. Human error, which causes most accidents, will never be totally eliminated; but it can be reduced if young drivers are prepared in the proper way. In the end, this training may mean fewer traffic injuries and deaths on the road, something that would benefit everyone.