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.