

# Writing the Conclusion of Your RAB

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**For your conclusion, address the following in AT LEAST 400 words:**

- **Summarize what you found in your research.** Tell readers what surprised you, or how your understanding of your question deepened or changed. You can also talk about what else you still want to learn.
- Explain **why what you learned** is important and explain **who you think needs to know about it** and why. Be specific! The answer cannot be “everyone.” That is too big of an audience. Narrow it down to who needs to hear about it first!

## **Sample Student Conclusion:**

Before any motion for reform, conditions in Native American schools included physical and mental abuse intended to “assimilate” Indigenous people into Western culture. The process of this assimilation, stripping Indigenous children from their families and their own ways of life, resulted in several consequences including mass suicide, loss of cultural traditions, alcoholism, and drug abuse. In the twenty-first century, the government has become more involved in repairing the Native American educational experience and making up for some of those issues that arose in those schools.

After consulting several resources, I have found arguments, data, and information looking at Native American educational experiences from both government and Indigenous points of view, over several decades. The government has made initiatives such as the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975, The Education Amendments Act of 1978, and The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 to improve the Native American educational experience. The government has also funded educational programs that teach Native American culture and history. Although we can see that the government has been getting involved recently, I would like to continue researching how Indigenous people feel about the policies made to make up for the consequences of the abuse that took place. How effective have these recent policies been? How can we evaluate their results? Furthermore, although I read about many government initiatives aimed at improving the Native American education system as a whole, I have not found any initiatives for materially supporting the victims of abuse. Those suffering from trauma, alcoholism, and drug abuse should be granted access to therapy or rehab. Additionally, these resources should be made available on reservations since alcoholism and drug abuse can be passed on to children and future generations. I believe some financial compensation would also help improve conditions. Although it will not solve past trauma, it could help the communities move forward.

It is important to note the value of teaching Native American history in the broader education system - both on reservations and throughout the country. Since many children were separated from their families and stripped of their culture, this would help Native children to reconnect to their roots in some way. In particular, teachers, school administrators, and educational policy makers should prioritize learning Native American history—including the history of Native American abuse in the education system—and passing on this knowledge. Interestingly, a government-funded study examining the validity of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) courses in teaching Native American history, from the perspective of Native Americans, had positive results. This finding surprised me in that I originally expected flawed outcomes. These positive findings would make an even stronger impression if they came from a study conducted by Indigenous people themselves, rather than a government-funded review of AI/AN courses.

With lingering questions about how effective government policies have been at repairing reservation life, I cannot definitively say the government has established efficient policies. Why do many Indigenous people still feel a distrust towards the government? Is it because they feel the government has not done enough to share the truth and bring it to light? The answers are for Indigenous people to decide, as they are, after all, on the receiving end of these policies’ “support.”

## **Start Writing Your Conclusion**

Restate your topic and your research question(s). What did you originally want to learn more about BEFORE you began the research process?

What are two or three new things that you learned through the research process? Be specific! Did anything that you learned about your topic surprise you?

How did your understanding of your topic deepen or change as you conducted your research?

Why do you think what you learned is important, and what specific audiences do you think would benefit from learning more about your topic too?

What questions for you remain unanswered? What else do you still want to know about your topic?