

Conclusions; Prof. Scanlan

A conclusion is usually a paragraph that ties together the parts of the body of an essay. Sometimes a conclusion restates the thesis or summarizes the major points. But a good conclusion should do more than summarize, a good conclusion should move ideas forward.

5 Conclusion Strategies:

1. State the subject of your essay's significance in a new way. Provide readers with one more reason to regard your research as a serious effort. For example: I think that it is clear that the Rule of Thirds is helpful when examining a close-up photo of a person, but the Rule of Thirds can also be used in landscape photography too. What I mean is...

2. Provide a recommendation or a call to action. Suggest that readers who want to continue to study this controversy might want to do something specific that you then describe in the conclusion. For example: When taking indoor photos at night, I want to suggest to my readers that they should try to take at least three photos. Take one without the flash, one with the flash, and one set on "auto."

3. Raise a question based on your essay, and then provide a provisional answer. For example: Now that I have explored two different sunset photos on Coney Island, I wonder about this question: would my technique of comparing colors and shapes also work if I had explored two cityscape photos. I think my technique would work because...

4. Speculate on the future. If your controversy is not yet settled, then speculate on how it might turn out in terms of what you have learned about it. For example: In the future, cameras will only be more popular and will probably be connected to sunglasses, eyeglasses, and hats. But that doesn't mean that it will be any easier to get a "good" photo. Take some time now to understand the basic principles of...

5. What have you learned? What have you learned about your own views of the argument? Answer these types of questions: Do you value photographs that focus on people and the Decisive Moment, or do you value landscape photographs that harmonize colors? Do you now realize that you value scientific research over emotional rhetoric?