

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

# CONCLUSION PARAGRAPHS ARE LIKE *Dessert*

## OBJECTIVE:

Write a conclusion paragraph that logically follows and supports the previous content.

Although desserts taste delicious at any time of day, there's a reason why we eat them after dinner: they're the grand finales that leave us with a good impression of the meal we just had. Mmm...

Your conclusion should also leave us feeling content, impressed, and maybe even inspired. Even if all the body paragraphs are fantastic, if you put a boring or incomplete conclusion at the end, the reader will walk away with a negative final impression of your work. (Gasp.) This is why some restaurants give free mints or chocolates with your check: customer satisfaction and building a positive reputation!



*Check out these examples: Why do they work?*

## #1: ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

**Thesis:** Uniforms should be required in schools because they promote equality, limit distractions, and remove opportunities for student conflict.

**Her conclusion:** Personal expression and creativity are important, but those qualities should come from somewhere other than your outfit. If the purpose of school is to learn, then anything that detracts from learning should be examined, particularly something as emotionally damaging as the competition that comes from clothing. Uniforms allow all students clothing. Uniforms allow all students to be seen as equals, since no one has to be left behind by expensive brand names or styles that are trending. The only things that uniforms limit are negative anyway: distractions between genders, competition among peers, and clique or gang apparel. Any school district committed to its purpose should implement a uniform policy to put students, not appearance, first.



## #2: BIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY

**Thesis:** Mother Teresa made a difference in hundreds of lives, just like we can, by listening to her moral conscience and taking action on it.

**His conclusion:** The Missionaries of Charity, still in existence today, continue to help the lives of the poor around the world, just like their founder, Mother Teresa. Even after her death, Teresa's work continued, and more of India's outcasts have been aided. She used her gifts to help others all throughout her life, and she kept her faith in God through all the challenges she faced, demonstrating both ethical and religious values to the world. Everything that Mother Teresa did would eventually come to show how much of a difference an individual can make. Today, there are many organizations completely devoted towards helping marginalized groups. We can continue Mother Teresa's work by supporting these groups and doing our own volunteer work as well; instead of simply having a moral code, we can choose to behave in a way that outwardly reflects our values. By putting forth our own effort to help people around us and by using our talents selflessly, we can walk in the footsteps of Mother Teresa.

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**CONCLUSION PARAGRAPHS  
ARE LIKE**

# Dessert



**RECIPE FOR A GOOD CONCLUSION:**

1. Pie crust: Restate the thesis USING NEW WORDS (paraphrasing)
2. Cheesecake: Review the major points of the essay concisely and USING NEW WORDS
3. Whipped cream: Mention the legacy, significance, lessons we can learn, or other "takeaways" (the "so what")
4. Strawberry garnish: A final statement that is either a call to action (argumentative), or a more subtle closing thought (informative)

Take a moment to reread the underlined transitional sentence on the previous page. Does it meet these criteria?

## Words of caution... \_\_\_\_\_

- Think about portion control. You don't want the reader to still feel hungry (too short) or stuffed to the point that she's going to be sick (too long).
- Stay consistent with the tone/style of the paper. Don't suddenly shift into wording that is more or less formal than before.
- Do not introduce brand new facts for the first time. Rather, this is the time to ANALYZE facts that were already stated, restate them, or maybe even synthesize multiple facts to make big general statements.
- Don't let anything in your conclusion be random or off-topic.

**Your turn. Write your first attempt at a paragraph below!**

My thesis was:

Conclusion:

**Does my paragraph...**

- Restate your thesis with new language?
- Review the previous main points?
- End with a final sentence that concludes, inspires, or motivates?
- Keep the reader's attention?
- Stay consistent?

