Transcript of ‘How to write a conclusion’

Time to write a conclusion. Let's do it.

Why do you need a conclusion?

Well a conclusion helps provide closure to the reader; it drives those main points home one last time, and it really tries to give the reader an understanding of why it matters; why did they just take all that time to read your essay. Hopefully it answers for them who cares about your topic. So that’s why you need some kind of conclusion at the end.

Slide 2. Here’s how you can do it. And again, we talked about this in the introduction, there’s no right way or wrong way. But if you are struggling to figure out a way and you’re not sure where to start, you can use T S S;

- Thesis
- Summarise
- Super so what?

Slide 3: The Thesis. You do not want to repeat your thesis exactly as you had it in your introduction paragraph, but what you want to do is say the same thing again in a way that makes sure the reader is getting your point. [but] paraphrasing this time. So you’re making your point in new language. And why do you need that in your conclusion? This is the last chance to drive home the point you are trying to make to prove, so you don’t want to miss it. It’s like the closing arguments in a court case and you’re the lawyer.

Slide 4: Summarise. In the second part [of your conclusion] you are summarising. What are you summarising? Well you’re summarising your arguments; you’re summarising the main points you’ve made and try and prove your thesis. And you’re going to try and paraphrase it a little bit as well. You don’t want to be just repeating what you’ve done, as it is going to sound repetitive and boring to the reader. You want to try to provide a new twist on it or a different way of saying the same thing. In this section it is going to be okay to include the main ideas of your topic sentences which might include a few specific freds, especially if they were really powerful.

Slide 4: Super so what? And finally you are going to add a super so what? We talked a lot about super so what’s earlier, but this is the super so what for your whole essay and it pairs off your thesis. It’s the one thing you really want the reader to take away from reading your whole essay. It should answer: why do you care about your essay? The super so what should tell them why you care and this is going to be the last line of your essay and you want to end strong and after that you do not say anything else.

Slide 5: So let’s look at our example. We’ll continue with cats and dogs. My thesis in the introduction of my essay was ‘dogs are better pets than cats’. So I’m going to
paraphrase that. I am going to say dogs are better, but I am going to do it a little differently. So I am going to say dogs make the best pets in the world. Does it still contain the idea that dogs are better than cats? Well yeah, it does. It says dogs are great and if they are the best in the world then they are better than cats.

The second part is to summarise my main points. I have changed the order a little bit and I have changed the wording. Instead of saying they are hygienic, I am saying that dogs are cleaner. Instead of saying that they’re brimming with friendliness I am going to say they’re better at showing affection, and ultimately easier to train. So that’s my summarising sentences.

My *super so what* is that they will change my life for the better, so go get a dog. That’s what the reader cares about, that’s what I want the reader to do now, what I want them to think about [that is] dogs and cats now they’re going forward after reading my essay. Go get a dog.

Slide 6. If we combine these together into a paragraph it reads like this: *Dogs make the best pets in the world. They are cleaner, better at showing affection and ultimately easier to train. Change your life for the better – go get a dog!* And that’s a great little three sentence conclusion. Again though I would push you to say that’s pretty good, but we can do better. So I’m going to improve and expand on the same ideas. Once I have these ideas I can expand and stretch them out a little bit. So here’s the final version: *There is no doubt that dogs make the best pets in the world. They provide a cleaner environment for your home, are not afraid to show their feelings, and can be trained to do a variety of tricks and jobs. Every second that goes by you are missing out on happiness. Get out of your chair and make a positive difference in your life – go get a dog!*