

Conclusions

The goal of a conclusion is to end on a strong note without confusing your reader by bringing up brand new ideas. You can also ease your reader out of your essay with some more general thoughts that apply beyond the narrow topic of your essay.

Begin by summarizing your main ideas without being repetitive: Try not to use the exact same words you've already used, and stick to the highlights of your essay; you do not need to restate every point you've made.

Once you've done that, try out one or more of these other strategies to close:

Play the "So What" Game. Point to broader implications for your essay. Consider why a reader should care about the points you have made in your essay.

For example, in my essay about how Howard Fast shows that people are brave and kind in the face of war, I might explain that this focus on human goodness makes the book relevant today, half a century after it was published, in the wake of other horrible events that bring out people's courage and compassion. I could discuss a specific example of a recent event that has done this.

Come to some kind of evaluation: for instance, an assessment of how effective an author's strategy is or how relatable a character feels.

For example, I might say that Fast's choice to focus on human goodness is an effective one, because it balances out his focus on the horrors of war and makes the book feel more hopeful.

Bring your essay full-circle. Circle back to the hook from your introduction in some way, but try not to repeat your hook word-for-word.

Example Conclusion: (This one isn't color-coded, because the concluding elements overlap.)

In conclusion, in his novel *April Morning*, Howard Fast manages to show both the horrors of war and the kindness of individuals. He does this by depicting honorable characters who comfort each other in times of sadness, maintain their manners, and show mercy towards soldiers on the enemy side. Fast was a pacifist, so he aimed to convey a negative view of war in his book. The positive parts of his story are important, though, because they balance out the gruesome parts and make the book more readable. Also, they make the book realistic, because it is true that in times of tragedy, some people do brave and wonderful things. By the end of the book, readers have their "bellies full" of war, just like Adam, but at least Fast offers some positive moments as well.