

## Prewriting 3: Developing an Ending and Beginning

Now that you have gotten a rough draft of the body of your essay through writing about the points you want to talk about in the essay, we'll start working on your conclusion by reading through what you have so far and then setting it aside and thinking about what it all means.

### Step 1: Start at the End!

On the webpage "[How to Write a Synthesis Essay Conclusion](#)," Beth Hall, who has a Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, provides some questions that can help you with ideas to discuss in your conclusion. Just remember, DON'T ASK THE QUESTIONS; GIVE ANSWERS!

When working on your synthesis essay conclusion, you need to develop your conclusion *beyond just restating your thesis*. Here are some questions to consider to help you develop your synthesis essay conclusion paragraph:

1. Who is helped or harmed by the issue? In other words, who benefits and who is at a disadvantage?
2. What are the short-term and long-term societal implications of this issue?
3. Why does this issue really matter?
4. Why is this issue relevant on a local, national, or even international level? For this question, you do not have to answer all parts. Which level to focus on depends on the topic itself.
5. Do you have any outside knowledge you could connect to the issue to show why it is essential?
6. How does the issue connect to the future? For example, you can even include personal experience to help show why the topic matters. Then, you can include why this topic is important to the future.

Answering any of these questions within the conclusion of the synthesis essay helps you offer deeper insight, placing the situation or issue in a broader context. (Hall)

Using the ideas in the list of conclusion questions, read through your body paragraphs from Prewriting 2 and then set them aside and just take some time and write about your overall thoughts on the topic. Don't tell people what to think or believe about it, instead, discuss those big issues in the questions for conclusions list.

## **Step 2: Find your thesis**

Once you write a draft of your conclusion, you've really thought through your big ideas as a whole. Now, thinking about this, what would you say the overall point of what you've synthesized is? Write that out in one clear sentence. Make sure it's a statement, not a question!

## **Step 3: Introduce it all**

This step may take a bit more thinking, or you may have an idea right off the bat. How do you want to start your paper? Do you want to give an example from daily life? Do you want to share some statistics and facts? Do you want to define some terms and get people thinking about your topic?

Once you develop that paragraph, make sure and end it with the thesis you drafted in the previous step.

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## **Basic Steps**

### **Step 1: Start at the End! Draft your Conclusion**

Think about how all of this fits into the big picture. Use the questions to guide you.

### **Step 2: Find your thesis**

Take a moment to think about how to sum that all up in one sentence. That sentence is your thesis.

### **Step 3: Introduce it all**

What do you need to do to get people into this topic? Tell a story/give an example? Provide some background information or a definition? Use a big idea quote to set the stage? Whatever you do, make sure to end it with your thesis.

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## **Congratulations!**

**Combine these notes with the ones from Prewriting 2 (the body) and you have done a ROUGH DRAFT of your Informative Synthesis Essay!**

