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essay of five or six paragraphs should present a conclusion of three to ten sentences.



You should watch out for these common errors when writing conclusions.

- Avoid beginning the conclusion with *in conclusion*, *finally*, or *to summarize* because it is obvious to the reader that you are going to conclude your essay in the last paragraph.
- Avoid sounding mechanical in summarizing the essay; for example, do not repeat the thesis statement and list of major details word-for-word from the introduction.
- Avoid beginning a new argument in the conclusion.

The Title

Like the title of a paragraph (see Chapter 5), the title of an essay gives the reader a clue as to the topic of the paragraph and the main idea. It is a sentence fragment, or sometimes a question, and is written above the essay in the middle of the page. The title is capitalized according to standard rules (see Chapter 22). Remember that the title that accompanies your own writing should not be underlined, italicized, or placed within quotation marks. Your title should not be the same as the subject or topic you have been assigned, but should be a unique name for your specific essay.

Peer Example

Titles



Group

Our Daily Tutor

DAN: My focus in this essay is on how the newspaper teaches us, so as I wrote the first draft in the writing lab and heard someone call for a tutor, I knew I had my title.

A Luxury Ride

BETH: "Luxury" was a word I wanted in my title, and I played around with van in the title but decided to use A Luxury Ride.

Review Exercise 1

Circle the best answer.

1. What is the main idea of an essay called?
 - A. introduction
 - B. topic sentence
 - C. thesis