**What is a Concluding Sentence?**

A **concluding sentence** indicates that you are bringing closure to a paragraph. Writing a concluding sentence may not come as easily as you may think. Many writers fail to realize that it closes out the final thoughts about the topic on which they are writing. This is why it is important for you to be able to write effective concluding sentences. For each paragraph, the reader should be able to identify what your key points are based on the concluding sentence. Remember, it should not include any information that was not discussed in the paragraph.

Examples of concluding sentence starters include:

* Therefore
* As expressed
* Overall
* As a result
* Thus
* All in all
* Finally
* In short
* For this reason
* In general

**Characteristics of Effective Concluding Sentences**

It is important for your students to know how to write effective concluding sentences in order to drive home the final point. Some characteristics include:

* Reviewing main points mentioned in a paragraph
* Restating the topic sentence
* Are found at the end of a paragraph
* Do not introduce new ideas or topics

As the writer, you should keep in mind that concluding sentences may look different for various types of writing. Examples of these types of writing include narratives, descriptions, compare and contrast, and argument.

The concluding sentence of a narrative paragraph should emphasize the moral lesson to the audience. With descriptive paragraphs, the concluding sentence helps to tie everything together by emphasizing details from the topic sentence, using different wording and summing up supporting facts. When writing a concluding sentence for the compare and contrast paragraph, you will want to restate both topics by pointing out the various similarities and differences that were discussed. The concluding sentence in an argument paragraph will summarize the argument being made. It may reaffirm why the argument is correct and the consequences that may occur if the argument is not heeded.

**Examples of Concluding Sentences**

For the following paragraphs, write a solid concluding sentence:

1. **Topic: What can we do to help stop climate change?**

If we are going to bring an end to climate change, we need to continuously adjust our habits so that we are using less energy and creating less waste. Simple changes, like recycling and turning off the lights when we leave a room are a good place to start, but we can’t stop there. For example, when we are out shopping, we should carefully evaluate our purchases. A great deal of the Earth’s resources are put into producing and transporting goods, and when we buy things we do not need or things that are of poor quality, they quickly end up in the landfill, which is a waste of resources. With this in mind, we should all make an effort to buy fewer items of better quality based on our needs rather than our wants. It is also important to look for ways to further reduce our consumption at home. Any time we use disposable items, we should ask ourselves if there is a reusable alternative. For example, paper towels could easily be replaced with cloth rags. We can also look for ways to minimize our use of other valuable resources by shifting our daily habits towards more sustainable practices, like taking shorter showers, eating less meat and walking to nearby locations rather than driving.

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1. **Topic: Smoking is dangerous for your health!**

There are severe health hazards directly linked to smoking. The link between cancer and smoking is well known; however, smoking is linked to other diseases such as emphysema and bronchitis. It is also proven that smokers have an increased chance of developing heart disease later in life. In some countries, smokers have been awarded damages from tobacco companies in court cases, signifying the dangers of this addictive behaviour. Further, there is evidence that even passive smoking can lead to increased health risks.

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