**Research paper conclusions**

In a research paper 'Conclusions' is a separate section, as is the Introduction. It is clearly labelled Conclusions, and follows the sections Methods and Materials, Results, and Discussion.

In most ways the Conclusion section of a research paper is easier to write than that of an essay or article. It must contain four straightforward elements:

 **Conclusions about the hypothesis posed in the introduction**

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| Did the hypothesis prove to be correct or incorrect? How? Why? How may the problem be rehypothesized? |

 **Results of the research – and their theoretical implications**

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| What did the research actually reveal? What was observed? Not only what do the findings indicate about the research done, but also what broader aspects might they reveal and explain? |

** Possible hypotheses raised by the results**

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| What questions do the results raise? What possible answers or explanations can be hypothesised? |

** Specific lines of additional research raised by the results**

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| At each step of the research new questions arose; how might they be answered or explained? |

How these conclusions are presented depends on the research done and the demands of the Style sheet for the particular field.

**Sample phrases you can use in conclusions**

** Summarising what you have done**

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| In conclusion, we can say that …  In this paper, we have seen that …  This research paper has clearly shown that …  The discussion in this article has given an overview of …  This paper has provided a systematic study of …  From the research that has been carried out, we can conclude that …  The aim of the present paper was to examine whether … and this has now been achieved.  Finally, it is worth pointing out that … |

** Indicating the limitations of your own work**

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| This article has only been able to touch on the most general features of …  Even a preliminary study, such as the one reported here, has highlighted the need for … |

** Looking to the future and further research**

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| Clearly, further studies are needed to understand / prove …  In order to validate the work we have carried out, a more in-depth investigation into … is needed.  The results of this research could assist policy makers to … |

**Points to check in your own writing**

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|  Can the reader understand the gist of your paper by reading only the introduction and the  conclusion? If not, re-write them.   Have you merely re-stated what you said in the introduction? If so, think how you might  present it somewhat differently in the light of the supporting evidence in the main body.   Do you conclude with an emphatic finish? Do you leave the reader with a strong  impression? |