**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 theconclusion? If not, re-write them. Have you merely re-stated what you said in the introduction? If so, think how you mightpresent 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 strongimpression? |