

## Writing Handout W-5:

# Writing an Effective Conclusion

Since it occupies the most emphatic position in a paper, the ending should impress your readers with the points that you wish them to remember. When you write your conclusion:

1. Close the essay and give an impression of finality. The reader should feel that he has come to the end of the paper and that the author has completed his purpose.
2. Leave the reader with a clear understanding of the central idea developed in the theme.

Although there are no fixed rules for writing a conclusion, it must evolve from the paper's purpose, its subject matter, and the way the material is presented. There are a number of types of conclusions that professional writers use that may prove helpful to you.

### **Summary (summarizes main points in paper)**

It is understandable that baseball fans are disappointed in today's players. *High salaries, a lack of team loyalty, and a sense of entitlement* make it hard for fans to actively root for a player.

### **Call to Action (seeks an action)**

*Baseball fans should boycott games* until the players realize that the integrity of the game is far more important than their high salaries and lack of dedication.

### **Prediction (forecasts outcomes)**

Baseball players make more and more money every year, and the prices of tickets keep getting higher and higher. Unless the players realize that the fan wants quality performances and team loyalty in exchange for the price of a ticket, *baseball attendance will continue to decline, and the game will eventually die.*

### **Question (evokes reflection)**

Because of the selfishness and lack of loyalty of today's players, the game of baseball is in serious trouble. *Can this game survive without a drastic change in attitudes of the players?*

### **Quotation (adds finality with the words of someone else)**

Baseball will never gain the popularity it once had until the players once again realize that baseball is a game that should be played purely for the enjoyment of it. As Bob Lemon, the great Cleveland Indians' pitcher, once said, *"Baseball was made for kids, and grown-ups only screw it up."*

### **Anecdote (adds finality with a very short narrative)**

*I remember, when I was a child, my father took me to a dinner* where Wally Post, an outfielder for the Cincinnati Reds, was speaking. He said that going to spring training was a financial burden for him because he had to hire someone to plant crops on the land he farmed. Today's player would never make a financial sacrifice to play the game of baseball.

## **Restatement (Recapping importance of topic)**

In an age when baseball is already criticized for being boring and time consuming, it is important that the players realize that without fan support, they are nothing. It is imperative that today's players recommit to the game, exhibit team loyalty, and play for a reasonable salary so fans want and are financially able to support them.

## **What Not To Write in Your Conclusion**

1. Do not end with an apology. Let your paper stand on its own merits.
2. Do not end with a new idea or information. If you have thought through your subject before writing and have organized it well, you are not likely to think of an important idea you have previously omitted as you write the final paragraph.
3. Do not contradict your entire point.
4. Do not make obvious or overused statements.
5. Do not end suddenly with a one-sentence conclusion, such as "That is about all I have to say."
6. Do not end a paper without giving an impression of finality. When a reader comes to the end of the paper, he or she should feel that the paper is concluded and not expect to continue reading.