Writing Conclusions for Advanced Placement English Language Essays

The following are all conclusions from papers that scored an 8 or 9 on the AP Language exam. Even though you have not seen the original question, an effective conclusion should make both the purpose and thesis of the essay clear.

A good conclusion should be the writer's final appeal. In a persuasive argument, the writer should end with a final rhetorical thrust, ending with a convincing idea designed to draw the reader to his side. In a rhetorical analysis, the writer should be with a holistic assessment of the author's impact on his or her audience (viz., what does the author want his or her audience to think or feel upon finishing the work?).

Something NOT to do in either case: Summarize.

Always end with something new (that is, something not said before). You can and should return to former ideas, but present them from a different angle. Perhaps show the combined effect of the writer's ideas in a rhetorical analysis. Or, in a persuasive argument, end with a convincing idea that follows from your previous points.

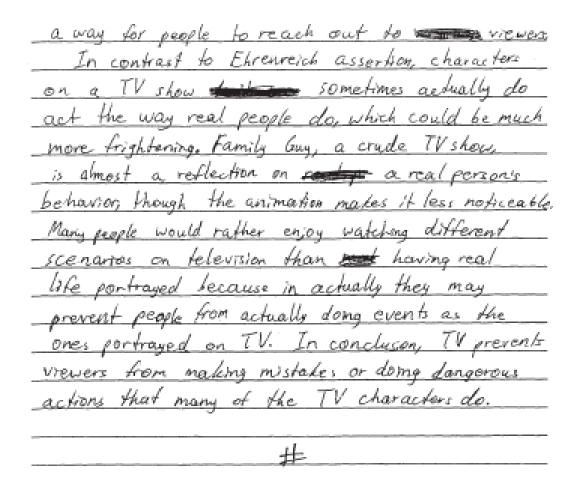
It doesn't matter what you do, so long as the paper ends on an emotional upswing in which your ideas are crystal clear and meaningful.

If you can.....

Try the following techniques at the end:

- 1. Dramatic sentences (e.g. one-word sentences or sentence fragments)
- 2. Parallel sentences or parallel elements
- 3. Rhetorical questions (i.e., questions with an obvious answer use to persuade the audience. For example: Do you want to fail, Johnny?)
- 4. A new specific illustration that captures a key idea.
- 5. Anaphora (or any type of intentional repetition). Anaphora is beginning a series of sentences with the exact same words (e.g., "I have a dream...")

The point: End with style and flair, if possible. Most of these techniques work best with persuasive arguments. Keep in mind that this is the English Language & Composition exam. Showing your skill at using advanced composition techniques will raise your score.



Note the intriguing idea at the end: That television benefits us because it prevents us from making mistakes. This final rhetorical appeal caps the writer's disagreement with ideas presented by a man named Ehrenreich. KEY POINT: This writer ends with something new. A persuasive appeal that builds on ideas presented earlier.

Schools are there to teach students the ways to survive in a maety and get along. The schools these days are getting stricter and stricter, to school hours are increasing, and students such as I, are being continual longer and langer. It is to swool should be a place where students want to go to be educated and develop their own Thoughts.

Not a place we feel we have to go in order to fit in. The felling of being watched, controlled, and continued isn't a feeling watched, controlled, and continued isn't a feeling of nationalism or a feeling we'd want to have when asked why we obtend our country.

Note the dramatic style of these closing lines. Consider using parallelism or dramatic sentence structures in your concluding paragraph. Such rhetorical "flair" stylistically enhances your ideas. It also demonstrates advanced compositional skill. (In this case, observe the dramatic sentence fragment, "Not a place…" and the parallelism of the following line.) I strongly recommend ending your paper with dramatic, rhetorical techniques, especially syntactical structures such as anaphora (lines with repeated opening words), parallelism, or fragments.

and much more.
In fretion, a character often ends
a story realizing for more than he did
when he began. The conflicts and resolutions
he has been through hove forced it on him.
Character development is not merely a
literary construct - it exists in life.
We cannot live and we cannot you
without the realization that we are not
living perfectly and that we have ideals
to grow towards, and revealing these
is the true value of adversity.
1.

This essays ends with reflection, capturing the idea that imperfection is a necessary part of life. This philosophical ending adds depth to an already fine paper. Note how the ideas presented are universal and apply to many aspects of life. We don't all think as deeply, but do recognize the important of showing your understanding at the end.

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Not an impressive conclusion. The writer essentially returns to the author's rhetorical purpose. However, this conclusion does bring the paper to finality. It is functional. It doesn't raise the score or quality, but neither does it do any harm. We are able to clearly see that the writer understood Wilson's purpose. Conclusions should also reveal a clear understanding of the subject being analyzed.

The majority of countries in the world today are not democracies.

The people are very seldom asked for their opinion, on the contrary, they are usually forbacle from expressing it. Unless sjustice and sequality is insured for all people in voting and governance tyrannies and dictatorships will continue to thave.

Recently in trag, the countries first electrons were theld. Despite the threats and fear of danger, a great number of people voted. They exercised their democratic right a right they knew would prevent further terror and bloodshed. If all Americans did the same the future of democracy would be assured well into the 21st century and beyond.

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Previous page: Nice concluding paragraph. The author brought in a new example (Iraqi voting) and connected it to the important of voting in America. This new illustrative example strengthened the writer's final appeal. Remember: End with something new. In persuasive arguments, your paper should close with a final rhetorical appeal using something new.

ot happiness within poverty.

Hazlitt's goal in this piece seems clear: to

lax forth the horrors of living in poverty, By

employing a non-stop, relentless string of missortune
in a continuous sentence structure, Hazlitt plays on the

readers! heartstrings for more than enough to convince
them of the importance of having money.

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Dull, dry conclusion, but it works. The writer reminds us of Hazlitt's rhetorical purpose and reiterates the primary strategies employed. The writer's language ("lax forth," "relentless string of misfortune," "readers' heartstrings") helps. Such conclusions are not recommended, but they work—in so far as they don't hurt your paper. If you must end quickly, do it this way.

dostribing.
Through the various dochorages Plus is this
able to comment on both a specific phenomenon and its more general implications. Evample, word those and especially here helpreval that she finds plant in the American thought process
ownered implications. Europe, word choice and expeculty lose
helpreval that slefinds plant in the American thought process
especially who is most the whon it mores to pe
basis for the American broads. She is a Ste to get this
massage across not sporchically through her words but the implications that occur on a second level.
implications that occur on a second level.
1
11.

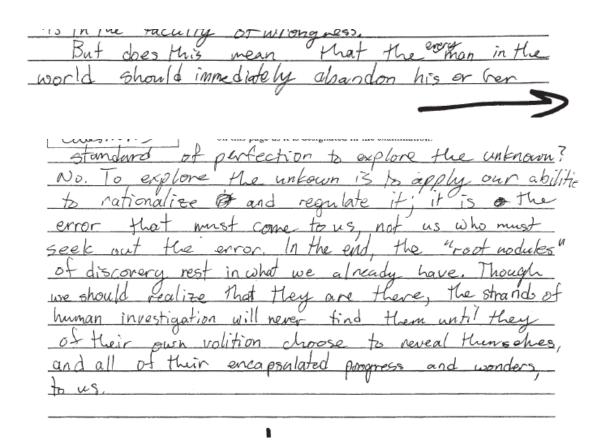
Nothing exciting. But it works. (See the previous example.)

ther equal rights.
The mastery of schotorical
Strategies holps Stewart convey
has position and effectively support
has purposed in a mod for equalify.
William tana maximale
Olchero, stowards was amongst the
cleaders of her communisty that
won the was for ravial equality in
america.

This is a rather poor conclusion. You might note that—so far in this file—few excite. There's a lesson there: Put your greatest energy into developing your body paragraphs. The conclusion need only be functional. Of course, in real writing, the conclusion carries far greater weight.

scouring out scholes"	2
Artistically written and	reatly organized, John
Barry's explanation of the ri	use and the complex
Barry's explanation of the ri	and corrupter an amusement
and arriousity. As Now more	
the reader that help someone	
MESSISSIPPI river as Barry	
J	

Ho-hum. Another one that merely works.



Now here's a conclusion! Note the effective (stylistic) use of a rhetorical question. The writer ends with a thoughtful opinion, confidently presented. This conclusion comes from information presented previously but is "new" in that it had never been articulated before. The writer's style and vocabulary impresses.

The remaining conclusions are presented without comment. Though not all will impress, they do what a conclusion is supposed to do: Bring a paper to finality and address the main idea(s).

Without a conclusion, your paper is structurally flawed and will be marked down severely.

eyond this border.	group conformity. Was correct in this passage, and wenthought the oppress their own rights and wonform three ica has become a breeding ground for conformity throught Columnia polinis, and modia.
ne pe	
-61	
	hands Charles hand a selection of
	This article aims to raise quarterss,
	give warning, and create humor about the
	often-misleading advertisement industry. Through
	its humor and clever diction, the onion is
	espective in its satisfical, tangue-in-cheek tone.
Do not w	the impovenshed of the world. When directly observed, "Singer's Solution" is not only a naive plan to undertake what millennia of human history has not helped, but also a misinterpetation of what caused human poverty and what can neighbor one it. During world war II, Franklin Delano Roosevelt initiated government deficit spending, and the increase of production and jobs helped America out of the & Great Depression. History is behind the critics of "singer's solution", and realism also backs them up the truth is that money spent on luxuries (or what some may call necessities) do more good than ham They go to wards assisting people as ; money spent on per firme goes to specialized workers who work at hand jobs for them

-16-

ADDITIONAL PAGE FOR ANSWERING QUESTION 3

"necessities", like no thing, goes towards large corporations which supplies exploit workers in sweatshops to massproduce T-shirts. In the end, "Singer's Solution" is not entry
not a viable subsection answer but applan in which
the efforts outweigh the benefits (misconstrued)

Essentially, Sontag is making, sweeping generalization about are art from that she start documentary photography dietoto truth as and prevente understanding, while expressionistic photography which she ignored is even a distortion of reality."

and thus presumably an even greater distortion of truth and understanding. It hat I ortag doe not understand is that there is more than one leind of truth, and these more than one way to get at it. Photography is one of those ways; sure it distorts - but then; doesn't everything? Especially words, Dontage chosen nedium?

* Sontage and claims that photographs make the world seem more available.

Than it is. The opposite is thre. Photography confirms the limits of this world. Photographs prove that there was history, that the human eye sees better than the camera tens, that articles in this world are finite. Pictures help us to see but do not replace reality.

17 IS TIME FOR SOCIETY TO BOTTON BREAK

178 FEITERS AND OPEN 175 EVES TO A

WORLD OF REALITY, NOT THE DARK ADDRESS.

ALLEYWAYS OF PROPAGANDA AND FALSE FRIENDS,

AS SONTAG WRITES, "NEEDING TO HAVE REALITY

CONFIRMED AND EXPERIENCE ENHANCED BY PHOTOGRAPHS

IS AN AESTHETIC CONSUMERISM TO WHICH EVERYUNE

US NOW ADDICTED, "FURTHER REALITY WILL NOT

BE BACKED BY PHOTOGRAPHS, BECAUSE THEY ARE

DPPOSITES. ONE MUST, INSTEAD, EXPERIENCE

LEALITY FOR HIMSELF, NOT THROUGH THE

a mere mostal could produce in her.

Sterie It is as if the hos been compregnated by Denn. It as is as if the were.

Leda, only her Swan is an ovel. Home the free the description of nature bears resemblance to Jates's forces, though it is much more suffered to Jates's forces, though it is much more suffered the encounter from the woman's view.

Lewes closics lines ossere Peirce that
the life of a married female writer is a
happy one - using an allusin to some a character
in one of her wants. The entire letter operates
on metapher and product mode interesting and
reliable by Lewes' personal experience.
Because of her experience, she speaks with
authority; at the same time, two very she torn
points and the underlying similarities between
her plight and Peirce's - offering exactly
what Peirce, reeded, a dose of inspiraliaSomething all writes and use.