

Writing - Week 11

Conclusions

What do you look for as a reader in a conclusion?

Sidenote: why not write

“What do you look for in a conclusion as a reader?”

Another principle:

Put words you want to emphasize at the *end* of the sentence.

Instead of

- Climate change could raise sea levels to a point where much of the world’s low-lying coastal areas would disappear, **according to most atmospheric scientists.**

Try

- According to most atmospheric scientists, climate change could raise sea levels to a point where much of the world’s low-lying coastal areas **would disappear.**

What do you look for as a reader in a *conclusion*?

- What was the main problem that the paper addressed?
- How did you address the main point?
- How does the topic connect with the reader? Why do I care?
- How can I apply this?
- Future directions
- Broader context of the topic. How does it related to other papers?
- Summarise the train of thought from the paper.
- Precise statements with numbers about what was found.
- What was the contribution of this paper to the research community?
- What are the limitations of the result?

Conclusions (Williams & Bizup, Ch. 7)

Conclusions should bring together

- your point
- its significance
- its implications for thinking further about your problem

This is similar to what an introduction should do!

Recall: Introductions (à la Williams & Bizup) should:

- 0) (optional) -- Prelude (quote, anecdote, startling fact, etc)
- 1) Establish a shared context.
- 2) State the problem.
- 3) State the solution / Main Point / Claim

Conclusions can make the same points, but in reverse!

- 1) Restate the gist of your point / main claim / solution to your problem
- 2) Explain its significance.
 - Answer in a new way, if you can.
- 3) Suggest extensions to your work, limitations of it, and further questions / problems to be solved.
- 4) (optional) End with an anecdote, quote, fact, etc that echoes your prelude.

This is just a suggestion — there are many ways to write conclusions.