CONCLUSIONS

Functions of a concluding paragraph:

- To make one last effort to convince the reader
- To suggest larger implications now that the evidence has been presented
- To provide a satisfying sense of closure

Strategies for writing effective conclusions:

- Make a useful analogy or comparison.
- Suggest specific actions that the reader should take in light of the information you've provided.
- Speculate about what your thesis implies for the future.
- Make a brief remark that sums up your feelings.

Poor endings:

- **The unnecessary summary:** Only lengthy, complex papers need a conclusion that summarizes the material covered in the paper.
- **The empty cliche:** "So ends the analysis of myself and the question of who am I has been answered in a brief form."
- **The unnecessary announcement:** "And in conclusion, let me say...."
- **The trite truism:** "And as for the future, only time will tell."
- **The waste basket ending:** Do not try in the final paragraph to say everything you didn't have room for in the body of the paper.
- **The fade-out:** "Researchers have so much more to discover in this area. Whatever we say now will be superseded in the near future."
- **The wild surmise:** "From this we see the utter futility of ever trying to help another person."
- **The mirror image (the most common problem):** The writer merely repeats the thesis and summarizes the main points--a dull and mechanical conclusion.

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