

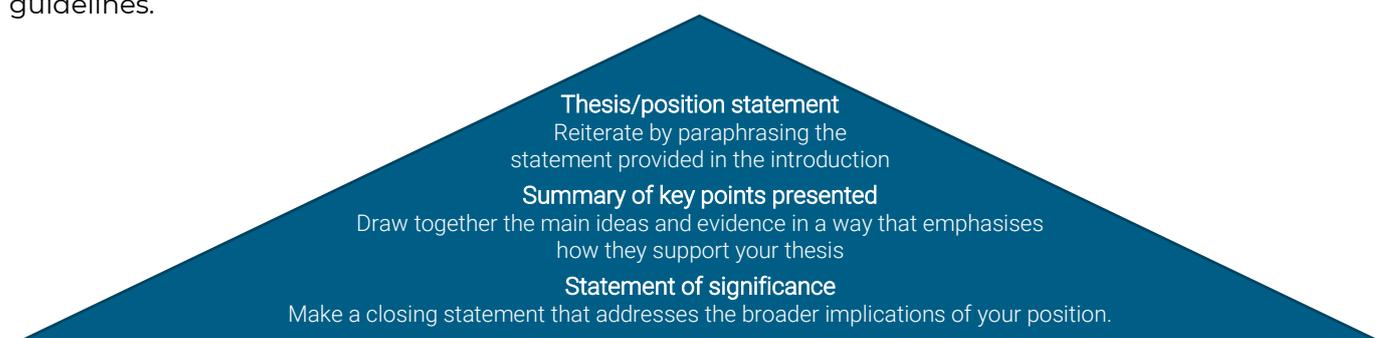
Writing Conclusions

Conclusions draw together the most important points from your written response to an assessment task. They are directly related to the introduction and the body section of your writing and provide no new information. A conclusion should leave your reader with a clear sense of the thesis or overall response you have stated in an introduction, a precise understanding of the key points you have developed in the body section to support it, and a heightened sense of the topic's significance. It does not merely restate your position in the same language and summarise key points in a list.

A good conclusion:

- moves from the particular to the general.
- starts with a topic sentence that paraphrases the thesis or position stated in the introduction. It may do so with greater emphasis or stronger, more persuasive language.
- integrates your position into a final synthesis that shows the reader how the points you have made support your overall position.
- ends with a statement of significance. To prompt reflection on the broader implications of your findings, ask yourself, 'So what'? Communicate the significance of your overall position without introducing any new information.

Always check your assessment requirements, task information and marking rubric for specific guidelines.



Exemplar

It is evident that the phenomenon of selfie posting is a complex and multilayered issue with advantages and disadvantages; however, on the strength of the reviewed literature, the detrimental impacts to one's mental health far outweigh the potential benefits. Evidence indicates that selfies can create upward social comparison with the frequent checking and posting of selfies creating unrealistic body expectations. To meet these expectations, individuals are more likely to engage in the practice of altering their respective selfie images, which in turn creates a false reality and significantly contributes to a diminished level of self-concept and decreased self-esteem. The consequences may be ongoing mental health issues including, though not limited to, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, eating disorders, and body dysmorphic disorder, all of which result in compromised well-being and life satisfaction. The selfie phenomenon must be understood in the context of these harmful impacts, and relevant, targeted education provided to those most at risk to promote positive mental health outcomes and safer social media use more broadly.

Thesis or position statement/Topic sentence

Summary of key points

Statement of significance

For further tips and another example of a conclusion, see Paragraphing Quick Guides under *Writing at University* on the Learning Zone Quick Guides page. Also see *'Writing at University'* at the SCU StudyHub.

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