

## Conclusion Dos and Don'ts

Do	Don't
Synthesize, don't summarize	Simply restate your thesis statement
Ask a provocative question	Be sarcastic
Leave with an interesting quotation	Introduce a brand new idea
Call for action	Focus on a minor point of the essay
Loop back to the anecdote in the introduction	Use the following phrases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In conclusion</li> <li>• In summary</li> <li>• In closing</li> </ul>
End with a warning	Add extra information that should have been in the body of the essay
Paint a strong image	Attack the character of the opposition
Express best hopes	Bully
Answer the "so what" question	
Point to broader implications	
Challenge the reader to think next steps	

**Sources**

University of Richmond Writing Center 2010  
 Maple Wood Community College Writing Center 2011  
 The Writing Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 2011  
 The Writing Center, St. Cloud State University 2013