

Mini Rubric for Essay Conclusions

Use this quick rubric to evaluate the effectiveness of an essay's conclusion paragraph.

Criteria / Band	3 — Excellent	2 — Good	1 — Developing	0 — Weak/Absent
Restatement Quality	Restates the thesis with fresh wording and sharper focus; reflects the paper's journey without repetition.	Restates the thesis with minor rephrasing; avoids verbatim repetition.	Restates the thesis with noticeable repetition; limited paraphrase.	No restatement or copy-paste repetition of the original thesis.
So-What Depth	Clearly answers 'So what?' by explaining significance, implications, or insight.	Addresses significance generally; some insight present.	Hints at significance but vague; little synthesis.	No explanation of why the discussion matters.
Call-Forward Relevance	Provides a realistic call-forward (next step, classroom action, or application) aligned with essay logic.	Suggests a plausible next step but lacks alignment.	Forward step is generic or loosely related.	No call-forward or irrelevant recommendation.
Closure Strength	Provides a satisfying sense of closure without new arguments; final sentence resonates.	Ends clearly but could be more memorable.	Abrupt ending or new ideas appear; weak closure.	No closure; conclusion feels unfinished.

Scoring Guide: Add up the four bands (0–3 each). 10–12 = Strong conclusion; 7–9 = Meets expectations; 4–6 = Needs revision; 0–3 = Rewrite required.

Quick Checklist (tick ✓)

- I restated the thesis with new wording and a sharper angle (no copy-paste).
- I answered the 'So what?' with a clear implication or insight for the reader.
- I added a realistic call-forward: next step, application, or recommendation.
- I avoided introducing new arguments or sources in the conclusion.
- My final sentence gives a sense of closure and memorability.
- Tone is academic but human; sentence rhythm varies naturally.
- Cohesion signals support closure (e.g., ultimately, in the end, taken together, beyond the scope...).