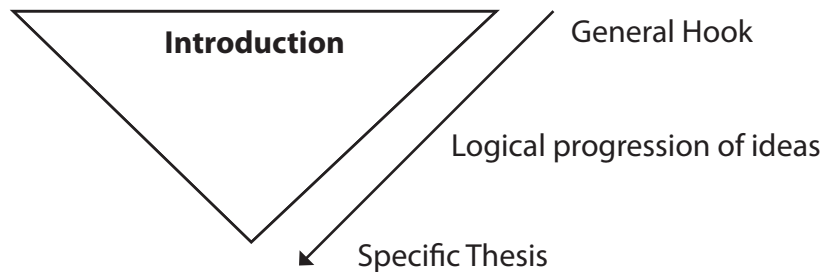


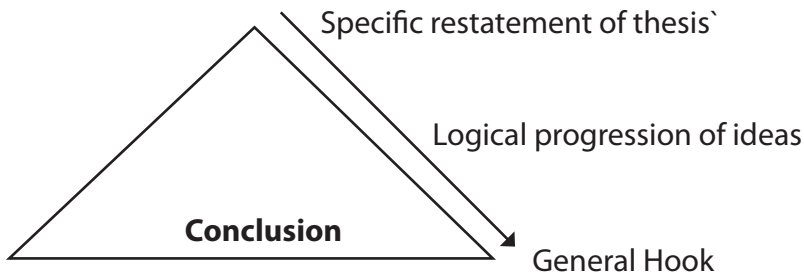
Conclusions

Definition

When writing your paper, don't forget about the conclusion! Think of the conclusion as an intro in reverse. In your intro, you started with a generalization or broad idea (as expressed in your hook) and then worked your way to your specific thesis. If you drew your introduction, it would look like this:



When you write your conclusion, then, you just want to “flip” this:



Example

This is a restatement of the thesis. “All of these...” serves as the transition.

→ All of these comedians and writers have played and continue to play an important role in protecting our freedoms. While they may be irreverent, while they may offend sometimes, without people who are willing to point out faults and risk the ire of others, society could never improve. Yes,

I work through a logical progression of ideas back to mentioning my hook. (Go ahead: look at the sample intro a few pages back!)

→ in America, a joke might hurt someone's feelings, but, thanks to a long line of courageous humorists, it won't get him killed.

5 Things about Conclusions:

1. Restate the thesis IN DIFFERENT WORDS THAN IN YOUR INTRO. You are restating the IDEAS, not the exact same words!
2. Transition into linking back to your hook. This could be by restating the main points of your paper again or by providing insight gained during the course of the paper, etc.
3. Finally, end with a link back to your hook. If you have a quote as your hook, refer to it again (restate it or summarize it); if you have a rhetorical question, answer it; if you have a definition, add to it; if you have an anecdote, tell the end of the story; etc. This link back to the hook ties your whole paper up into nice little package and is the best way to bring closure.
4. Your conclusion should be AT LEAST 3 sentences long, but not usually more than 5
5. Your conclusion should start with a concluding transition word, phrase, or sentence; avoid “in conclusion,” though! Instead try a transition sentence (i.e. “All of these examples add up to...” or “Taken together, these facts show...”). Or, at least use something appropriate from this list: finally, in a word, in brief, in conclusion, in the end, in the final analysis, on the whole, thus, to conclude, to summarize, in sum, in summary