

Scientific Writing: The IMRaD Conclusion

This handout was created to accompany the Writing in the Sciences video series.

The purpose of the Conclusion section acts as a reminder of the main outcomes of your work.

The Conclusion: A good conclusion reminds the reader of what was accomplished through the research and why it was beneficial to the field of study. As well as review the most important findings and connections.

Note: Conclusions should never provide new information, but rather review the most important connections in the paper.

Structure of Conclusion: Remember the hourglass shape, from the first video (IMRAD Overview). The Conclusion should mirror the introduction in scope, it is the bottom half of the hourglass.

1. Hypothesis and Purpose-At the beginning of the conclusion be sure to
 - a. Remind the audience of your research topic.
 - b. Restate your hypothesis and research aims and or goals.
 - c. Do not repeat statements that have already been made; summarize and paraphrase as needed
 - d. Typically, 1-2 sentences.
2. Main Points
 - a. Review the main points from the body of the paper.
 - b. Highlight the most important findings. The findings that correspond most closely with your research aims and hypothesis.
 - c. It can be helpful to re-read body paragraphs and outline the ideas and facts presented in each.
 - d. Try to avoid repetitive language.
3. Projection/Significance and Impact

Note: This section is not required for all research papers. Follow the instructor's guidelines. The remainder of the conclusion section is simply about conveying many of the ideas presented in your discussion, but on a higher level of abstraction.

 - a. In your discussion you are to have made important connections between your research aims and results. In the conclusion you get to communicate what it means for your field of study, and how it is significant and beneficial.
 - b. You can discuss what you learn in the research and note your contributions to the field.
 - c. If not included in the Discussion, note any limitations or (optional)unanswered questions of the study. (optional)Or of further research can provide insight to the area and suggest further studies.

Note: When you finish writing the conclusion, you may ask yourself, "Have I provided an adequate overview?"