

Methods for Developing Conclusions

A conclusion should

- ✳ Be brief.
- ✳ Reemphasize the main idea.
- ✳ Provide a sense of closure. Don't just stop; make sure you have an ending.

Reemphasizing, or restating, the main idea:

-Thesis Statement

The state legislators' proposal to raise the age at which a person may obtain a permanent driver's license from sixteen to eighteen will reduce the large number of traffic accidents caused by sixteen- and seventeen-year-old drivers.

-Thesis Restatement

This new proposal to raise the legal driving age to eighteen will keep drivers safe by diminishing accidents caused by minors.

Conclude the essay effectively by using one of the following methods:

1. Call for action
2. Issue a warning
3. Use a relevant quote
4. Refer to the intro

Method 1: Call for action

By the end of the paper the readers should be convinced of the thesis. Provide a sense of urgency by encouraging and even imploring them to act. This can be a powerful and effective way to conclude an argumentative essay.

Example:

During November and December, approximately 250 sixteen- and seventeen-year-old teenagers in Laredo were involved in car accidents; this number represents nearly twelve percent of all local sixteen- and seventeen-year-old drivers. However, if citizens vote for the proposal to raise the age at which a person can obtain a driver's license from 16 to 18, we'll all see a significant decrease in the rising number of accidents caused by inexperienced teenage drivers.

Method 2: Issue a warning

To avoid telling the reader what to do, explaining the inevitable negative consequences can be an equally powerful way to conclude.

Example:

According to Paul Young Auto Mall, a local car dealership, car sales for sixteen- and seventeen-year-old teenagers rose thirty percent this year. Unfortunately, the number of fatal car accidents these inexperienced drivers are involved in also increases. If we continue to ignore this serious and growing problem, our highways and roads are doomed to become a fatality zone for these sixteen- and seventeen-year-old drivers as well as for older safety-conscious drivers and innocent by-standers.

Method 3: Use a relevant quote

The wise words of a relevant authority, who has a potential impact on readers, can effectively conclude your paper. Use a relevant quote that has potential impact on readers.

Example:

Although giving a car to a sixteen- or seventeen-year-old teenager may be considered a rite of passage in American society, it is also the parents' responsibility to consider the safety of other drivers on the road. Parents must realize that handing their teenagers a car can be just as dangerous as handing them a loaded gun. As a state politician was recently quoted in *Texas Monthly*, "I'm all in favor of keeping dangerous weapons out of the hands of fools; let's start with cars."

Method 4: Refer back to the intro

Linking the conclusion to the introduction is an effective way to conclude your paper since it reinforces your main idea or thesis and makes the reader feel like we've come full circle.

Example:

Introduction:

The Ramírez family, including a three-month-old child, was killed last night when their minivan was struck head-on by a Mustang driven by a sixteen-year-old who received his license just three days earlier. The state legislators' proposal to raise the age at which a person may obtain a permanent driver's license from 16 to 18 will reduce the large number of traffic accidents caused by sixteen- and seventeen-year-old drivers.

Conclusion:

Although it is too late for the Ramírez family who lost their lives because of a sixteen-year-old driver, it is not too late for legislators to do something about our safety on the road. Raising the age at which a person may obtain a driver's license from 16 to 18 will lead to fewer traffic accidents. The safety of our families should not be in jeopardy because sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds lack experience behind the wheel.

Avoid writing weak conclusions:

- ✦ **Delete overused announcements from the final draft such as**
 - "In conclusion..."
 - "To sum up..."
 - "As a result..."
 - "In this essay I have proven that..."
- ✦ **Don't repeat the thesis word-for-word from the intro.**
- ✦ **Don't rehash all the main points of the essay when they've been clearly developed and supported in the body paragraphs.**