

Conclusions Writing Module

Teacher Masters

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TM#1: Engage Prior Knowledge— Silent Warm-Up

What have you already learned about writing a good conclusion for an essay? What do you think makes a good conclusion?

TM#2: Effective Conclusions Poster

Answer “So what?”

Why is what you wrote in your essay important?

Point to the future.

What predictions can you make?

Tell us what to do.

What should the readers do now that they’ve read this essay?

TM#3: Demonstrate—Models of Conclusions

Directions:

1. Read the summary of the article.
2. Read the conclusion.
3. Decide which strategy/strategies the author used.
4. Underline any parts of the paragraph that contain each strategy.
5. Draw a line to the correct strategy description.

Summary:

This essay is about neighborhoods that work together to make small changes in their communities, such as cleaning up a vacant lot or working to get a traffic light installed.

Strategies for Effective Conclusions:

Conclusion:

A neighborhood is only as strong as the spirit of the people who live there. Even though it can sometimes be tempting to close our doors and close out the world, we must turn our attention to the community outside our own four walls. We must work together with our neighbors and, as Mahatma Gandhi said, “We must be the change we want to see in the world.”

Answer “So what?”

Point to the future.

Tell us what to do.

TM#3: Demonstrate—Models of Conclusions (cont.)

Directions:

1. Read the summary of the article.
2. Read the conclusion.
3. Decide which strategy/strategies the author used.
4. Underline any parts of the paragraph that contain each strategy.
5. Draw a line to the correct strategy description.

Summary:

This essay is about animals that give off light and seem to glow, such as some fish and sea creatures. The writer explains some of the ways this light helps the glowing creatures.

Strategies for Effective Conclusions:

Conclusion:

The light that animals give off is useful to people, too.
Medical research scientists are using chemicals
produced by glowing creatures to light up parts of
cells so they can be viewed under a microscope. The
chemicals can also help doctors spot deadly cancers.
Organisms that give off light might even have uses
that would help the environment. For example,
perhaps they could make plants glow to indicate they
need watering or make Christmas trees light up
without electricity. Learning more about these cool
creatures might give scientists even more bright ideas.

Answer "So what?"

Point to the future.

Tell us what to do.

Adapted from: Brownlee, Christen. "Seeing the Light." *Science World*. Scholastic, Inc., 2 May 2012. Web.

TM#4: Practice—Analyzing a Model Conclusion Answer Key

Directions:

1. Read the summary of the article.
2. Read the conclusion.
3. Decide which strategy/strategies the author used.
4. Underline any parts of the paragraph that contain each strategy.
5. Draw a line to the correct strategy description.

Summary:

This essay is about an organization that finds wild baby animals whose mothers have died and rescues them. The organization then cares for the animals until they are strong and mature enough to be returned to their home in the wild.

Strategies for Effective Conclusions:

Conclusion:

Yes, it takes a great deal of time, money, and care to raise a baby elephant and prepare it to go back into the wild. However, baby elephants that are left in the wild without their mothers would almost certainly die. Therefore, the elephant orphanages are the babies' only hope for survival.

Answer "So what?"

Point to the future.

Tell us what to do.

TM#5: Independent Practice Answer Key

Part 1: Review the Strategy

What are the three types of conclusions that we learned today?

1. “So what?”
2. Point to the future.
3. Tell us what to do.

Part 2: Apply the Strategy

Directions:

1. Read the summary of the article.
2. Read the conclusion.
3. Decide which strategy/strategies the author used.
4. Underline any parts of the paragraph that contain each strategy.
5. Draw a line to the correct strategy description.

Summary:

This essay is about a boy who didn't want to learn how to ride a bicycle and about how, when the child was nine years old, his mother finally insisted that he learn.

Conclusion:

Success! But as I watched my youngest son pedal down the sidewalk, a lump of sadness rose in my throat. On one hand, I was so proud of him, and so excited to share this milestone in his life. But on the other hand, I realized that my baby was growing up, and watching him pedal away seemed like just the first part of his lifelong journey to becoming an independent man.

Strategies for Effective Conclusions:

Answer “So what?”

Point to the future.

Tell us what to do.