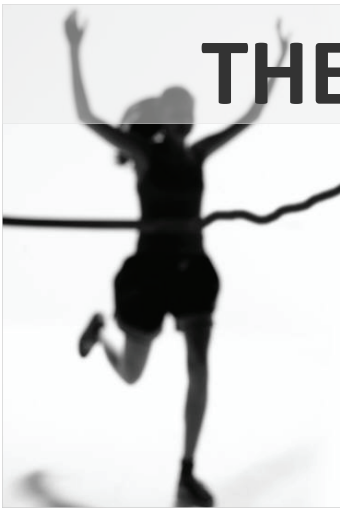


# THE FINISH: CONCLUSIONS



**Ending your paper can be very challenging, but you can make it all the way to the finish with these few suggestions.**

**Include a brief summary of the paper's main points.**

In your concluding paragraph, it is wise to make connections to what you have already stated in your paper. This reiteration helps your reader remember your main points. Let's say you're writing a paper about New York's ban on smoking in bars and restaurants; when it's time to conclude the paper, you can write the following:

Ex. In conclusion, the ban on smoking in bars and restaurants is completely justified due to the risks of second-hand smoke on both employees and customers.

(Remember, the restatement should be in slightly different words than your thesis.)

**Ask a provocative question.**

Using a provocative question can encourage the reader to respond to the points you made. Provocative questions also promote further research.

Ex. Shouldn't every bar and restaurant employee have the right to work in a smoke-free environment?

**Use a quotation.**

Quotations can be used in a concluding paragraph if they help you sum up your ideas, and if the quoted source is reputable and well-known.

Ex. Studies by the American Cancer Society have discovered "an estimated 35,000 to 40,000 deaths from heart disease in people who are not current smokers."

**Evoke a vivid image.**

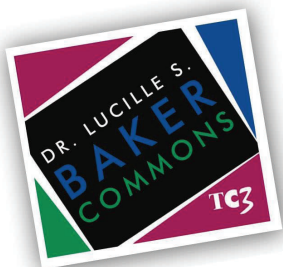
Evoking a vivid image can easily leave readers with a clearer grasp of your ideas. Descriptions can appeal to both the emotions and the intellect of your readers, conveying your message effectively.

Ex. So say goodbye to the days of foul-smelling restaurants and bars, nicotine-covered walls, hacking patrons, and stale clouds of sour smoke.

**Call for action.**

You may find yourself writing about a social issue that is important and urgent. To stress your point, calling for action can make the reader understand the gravity of the issue and also encourage readers to address it.

Ex. To those still living with second-hand smoke, why should you have to put up with others' bad habits every time you go out to eat? Talk to the appropriate state representatives. Get involved.



## Writing & Research Center

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