Writing a Concluding Sentence

Your paragraph should end with a **concluding sentence.** The concluding sentence brings closure to the paragraph by providing a summary of the topic and supporting details. It may also suggest what action the reader should take. If another paragraph follows, the concluding sentence serves as a link between the two paragraphs.

**Example:**

*The federal government should stop spending large sums of money for defense. Now that the Cold War is over, there is no need to keep this country armed to the teeth. Currently, the United States spends more for defense than all other countries in the world combined! Congress continues to approve larger amounts of money for defense while no country comes close to being dangerous to us.*

This paragraph lacks an ending. The paragraph begins with an opinion about the amount of money spent for defense, and supporting details follow to back up this point. However, the lack of a conclusion leaves the reader wondering whether the paragraph is finished.

The addition of a concluding sentence like the following would make a big difference.

**Concluding Sentence:** *Tell your representatives to stop wasting tax payer money on a threat that no longer exists.*

This one sentence ties the paragraph together by summarizing the main idea and supporting details and urging the reader to take action. The reader may agree or disagree with the writer’s ideas, but the reader has no doubt that the writer had brought the paragraph to a close.

***A concluding sentence may achieve one or more of the following:***

* Emphasize an important point
* Provide a summary of the topic and details
* Suggest a response for the reader
* Link one paragraph to another

Activity: On your own, read the last sentence in each of your paragraphs. Does it accomplish one of the 4 concluding sentence options above?