The Thesis and Conclusion Connection: How to End Your Paper

Your conclusion reiterates your thesis in more depth and gives readers an idea, perspective, or action to remember. To write an effective conclusion, try answering the "So what?" question when developing your thesis. Below are two examples of how to state your opinion in the introduction and expand on it in the conclusion.

1. Find which words and key ideas are repeated in the conclusion.
2. How are the ideas expanded? Do the authors explain argument implications or limitations? Do they suggest ways to think about or use their ideas?

Thesis #1:

Unless the risks of cell phones are shown to outweigh the benefits, we should not restrict their use in moving vehicles; instead, we should educate the public about the dangers of driving while phoning and prosecute irresponsible phone users under laws on negligent and reckless driving.

Conclusion #1:

The use of cell phones while driving is probably here to stay—despite the risks—unless future studies prove that the risks clearly outweigh the benefits. However, public safety concerns are real. To address those concerns, we should mount a major educational campaign to educate drivers about the dangers of driving while distracted and insist that laws on negligent and reckless driving be enforced as vigorously as possible. Educating drivers and implementing laws will contribute to decreasing the number of deaths related to cell phone use on the road.

Thesis #2:

Although characters in The Women of Trachis speak of Heracles as an idol, the Heracles that appears in the play contradicts the hero from previous myths and the hero from other characters' recollections. Instead of maintaining Heracles' warrior reputation, Sophocles paints him as disloyal, brutal, and weak in order to impel the audience to appreciate Heracles' family, chastise masculine society, and recognize the vulnerabilities found in all humans.

Conclusion #2:

In The Women of Trachis, Sophocles breaks down the basic elements that make up Heracles' reputation. Instead of a noble warrior, he is disloyal, brutal, and weak. Through hiding the truth, honoring a slave girl more than his wife, and disrespecting his son's wishes, Heracles shows he is disloyal to his family. Deianira and Hyllus, in contrast, are the perfect picture of a noble and virtuous family. Heracles' impulsive and excessive brutality toward Lichas and the city of Oechalia stimulates criticism of the basic violent structure that makes up Greek society. To remind the audience that all beings have faults and can fail, Sophocles illustrates Heracles' emotional and physical limitations, passion and poison. Although he is unaware of his faults, the combination of his unfaithfulness, violence, and vulnerability kill Heracles in the end.

Paper #1 excerpts from: http://dianahacker.com/pdfs/Hacker-MLA.pdf
Paper #2 excerpts from Lake Forest College Writing Center Session Binder