**Flipping an Introduction into a Conclusion**

Concluding paragraphs can be the most difficult part of an essay to write. In some ways, writing a conclusion is like writing an introduction in reverse. We will think of a conclusion as a flipped and condensed introduction. There are a few key points to remember when writing conclusions.

A conclusion should:

• rephrase the thesis statement

• review or summarize key points from the introduction

• provide a sense of completion

• provide a graceful exit from the speech to the “real world”

Remember that normally the rephrased thesis statement comes first in the concluding paragraph. Your attention grabber becomes your thoughtful closing statement. You will also need one or more sentences between the thesis statement and the concluding idea.

You can use several techniques in writing a conclusion. The most important thing is that your conclusion should match your introduction and your body in tone and style. If you are writing a humorous paper, you shouldn’t conclude it with an extremely serious paragraph. If you have used a quotation, for example, in your introduction, you might want to close with another quotation or to refer indirectly to the quotation.

Concluding techniques can include:

• A challenge or suggested course of action

• A summary of the paper’s main points (map)

• A circular reference to the introduction

• An expression of the importance of the thesis

• A provocative question

• A warning

• A quotation

• An affirmation of hope or an expression of hopelessness

• A use of a symbol

• A striking fact or detail

• A powerful example

• A strong vivid visual image

• A comparison to similar situations

• A look to the future

• A suggestion of future consequences

• A new interpretation of a common term

Do not:

• Start off in a new direction

• Make exaggerated claims

• Apologize