Conclusions

Conclusions work as a funnel by…

1. Beginning with a specific restatement of the thesis (use new words! Don’t just copy & paste)

2. Providing a BRIEF synopsis of the main points provided in the body paragraphs that prove the thesis true

3. Funneling readers in the opposite direction of the Introduction by moving from specific to broad claims

4. Answering the “So What?” question by doing one of the following:
   - Make a call to action (tell us what we can do with the information you gave us in your essay)
   - Tell us why we should care (connect the subject matter to your readers and show how it all affects them)
   - Point out gaps in research (tell us what things need further research in order to move forward from the ideas presented in your essay)

Matters of Style:

- Condensing is key! When summarizing main points, stick to the highlights rather than rehashing all the details.
- Avoid overused transitions like “In conclusion” or “In sum.”
- Stay strong! Follow through with your opinions without getting wishy-washy. If you end your essay with something like, "Of course, other people have different opinions on this subject, and I certainly do not know everything," you will destroy the impact of your argument.

*Look at the back of this handout to see an example*
Analysis of Voltaire’s *Candide*

1 As can be seen, the characterization Voltaire creates throughout his novel does far more than merely entertain: it serves to instruct readers on how to view the world. 2 Instead of looking to Pangloss or Martin as role model philosophers, the audience is drawn to Cacambo’s more appealing approach, thereby suggesting how philosophical skepticism trumps both optimism and pessimism. 3 *Candide* thus exists as a refreshing reminder to readers everywhere to avoid the tempting simplicity of viewing the world from a one-dimensional perspective; it is only through the multi-faceted lens of philosophical skepticism that one can achieve peace and understanding.