Conclusions vary widely in structure, and no prescription can guarantee that your essay has ended well. If the introduction and body of your essay have a clear trajectory, your readers should already expect you to conclude when the final paragraph arrives, so don’t overload it with words or phrases that indicate its status. Below is an activity for a hypothetical, abstract essay with five main sections:

**Step One:** Start with either an already written essay or one you found online, identify the conclusion and erase it.

**Step Two:** Try to find a way to transition from last body paragraph. One to two sentences preferably.

**Step Three:** Next, develop sentences explaining how the paper has fit together and leads to a stronger, more emphatic and more detailed version of your thesis.

**Step Four:** Go on to discuss the implications for further research:

1. Other areas that can use the same method
2. How your findings change the readers’ understanding of the topic
3. Discussion of areas in need of more detailed investigation

**Step Five:** Add any final thoughts:

1. Why the essay was important or interesting
2. Any other areas in which your essay has significance: ethics, practical applications, social implications