Conclusion Paragraphs Study Sheet

Goals for this Study Sheet
This study sheet will take you through the different components of a basic conclusion paragraph and help you learn how to end your paper effectively.

Components of Conclusion Paragraphs
Before getting into the main components of conclusion paragraphs, it is important to note that the advice provided here is about how to conclude an academic essay. There are many different ways you can conclude many different writings, but the following are some suggestions specifically for academic papers.

Begin with a Restate of Your Thesis
Since the thesis is arguably the most important part of your paper, you want to make sure that you restate it towards the beginning of your conclusion. It’s good to remind your reader of the point of your paper before they leave off reading it. However, remember to do the restate of your thesis in a way that doesn’t sound repetitive; don’t just repeat your thesis word for word. Try phrasing your restated thesis in a way that flows well with the conclusion of your paper.

Go Back Over Your Main Points
Since the conclusion is the last part of your paper your reader will read, you want to make sure that you leave them with the most important parts of your paper in their head. If you have very distinguishable main points in your paper (and you should), be sure to go back over them in a non-repetitive/conclusive way.

End with a Concluding Thought, an Application, and/or a Path for Further Study

From the Writing Center at the Academic Resource Center
These last ones are suggestions for how to end your paper; if you’d like to get creative, try thinking of a different way to end your paper. You also might be able to mix these suggestions together to create your ending.

For the concluding thought, just end with a final word from you (the writer) that wraps up your whole paper. Maybe discuss the significance of your topic, or where we’ve come now that we’re done with the paper. For the application, maybe end with a suggested course of action for your reader to take. This can be a good ending specifically for argumentative/persuasive papers. For the path for further study, hint at ways what you’ve talked about could be studied further, or perhaps how you yourself plan to study it further.

Honestly, the options for ending your paper are endless. Just do what feels cohesive with your discussion, and be sure to end on a strong note.