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How should you write a conclusion and recommendation

A dissertation or thesis writer's guide to crafting a high-quality conclusion chapter By: Derek Jansen (MBA) & Expert Reviewer: Dr. Eunice Rautenbach (DTech) Updated March 2025 The conclusion chapter is the final major chapter of a dissertation or thesis, serving as a concluding summary of research findings and wrapping up the document. Unlike discussion chapters, which delve into intricate details, conclusion chapters take a broader perspective, reporting on main research outcomes and addressing research aims. Key components of a good conclusion chapter include: - Summarizing major points - Explaining significance and value - Describing application and further research However, it should not be a rehashing of the discussion chapter. The two chapters serve distinct functions, with the conclusion chapter needing to achieve specific goals. The conclusions chapter serves as a roadmap for the reader, providing an overview of the key research findings and their significance. A typical structure includes: - **Step 1: Brief Introduction** - Craft a concise introduction that outlines what readers can expect to learn in the chapter. - Provide a preview of the content without giving away too much. - **Step 2: Discuss Overall Findings** - Summarize the research findings in relation to the research aims and questions. - Emphasize how these findings address the research goals and provide context for the reader. - Avoid making grand claims that a single study can prove or disprove existing theories. - **Step 3: Discuss Contributions to the Field** - Explain how the research contributes to theoretical and practical aspects of the field. - Highlight achievements, importance, and value of the study's outcomes. - Mention any research outputs generated as a result of the study. Your research effectively addresses the research problem by filling existing knowledge gaps and contributing to relevant theories. By acknowledging the limitations of previous studies, your study provides new insights into how certain factors affect outcomes. The findings can be applied in real-world scenarios, leading practitioners to take specific actions based on the results. While the study may not fundamentally change paradigms, it still presents a valuable contribution that should be recognized. In reflection, consider how your research contributes to addressing existing gaps and what implications this has for future studies. Discuss how your findings align with or challenge relevant theories, highlighting any novel contributions made by your research. Additionally, explore how the study's results can inform practical applications, such as specific actions practitioners could take based on the findings. However, it is essential to strike a balance between confidently presenting the study's value and acknowledging its limitations. This includes recognizing potential shortcomings like sampling issues, insufficient sample sizes, or limited data access. By doing so, you demonstrate an understanding of your research design's constraints and highlight opportunities for future studies to improve upon these limitations. Finally, make recommendations for future research that build on the limitations discussed. For instance, if a specific method was used in this study but had limitations, suggest that future researchers employ alternative methods to collect or analyze data. Research recommendations refer to interesting data points or analysis findings that deviate from the primary research aims and questions, yet hold potential for future exploration. This section serves as an opportunity to outline how others can build upon the study's results to advance knowledge in the field. Researchers should carefully consider newly raised questions and clearly communicate them for subsequent studies to address. To make your research more impactful, you need to translate your findings into actionable steps that others can use to address a problem or improve a situation. This involves suggesting concrete measures and new avenues for future research. By doing so, you'll enhance the credibility of your work. For studies with real-world implications, recommendations are a great way to provide evidence-based suggestions for policymakers and practitioners. Many researchers struggle to distinguish between research recommendations and implications. Here's how they differ: Recommendations are typically found in the conclusion and discussion sections, while implications are broader and more far-reaching. There are various types of research recommendations, including: 1. Observations based on research questions 2. Suggestions for future studies 3. Implications for practice or policy When writing recommendations, follow these steps: 1. Review your research goals to ensure alignment with your objectives. 2. Analyze your findings and identify key results that inform your recommendations. 3. Evaluate the effectiveness of your research methods and consider potential limitations. 4. Prioritize your recommendations based on their feasibility and impact. 5. Craft actionable statements that are clear and concise. By following these steps, you'll be able to write effective recommendations that make a tangible difference in the field. To effectively communicate research findings, it is essential to employ clear and concise language when outlining specific actions. For instance, instead of stating "improve education practices," a more precise approach would be to suggest "implementing a teacher training program." Furthermore, providing evidence is crucial, as it grounds suggestions in the research conducted, necessitating the citation of relevant data or findings from the study or previous literature to support recommendations. Additionally, acknowledging and addressing challenges related to the research is vital, including limitations that may impact future outcomes. When crafting recommendations, it is advisable to be concise, using one sentence statements for professionalism, and logical, potentially incorporating lists and headings as required. Tailoring recommendations to the target audience and focusing on specific, actionable measures are also key. Ensuring alignment with the conclusion and considering potential limitations are critical aspects of writing effective research recommendations. Ultimately, a summary highlighting suggestions and their impact should be included. For example, in a study examining the effectiveness of e-learning platforms for adult language learners, recommendations might include incorporating e-learning tools into curriculums, developing training programs for educators, and focusing on interactive platforms that cater to different learning styles. Future research directions could explore the long-term effects of e-learning on language acquisition. A well-structured conclusion and set of recommendations not only summarize key points but also underscore broader implications and suggest areas for further exploration, offering actionable insights for future research, policy decisions, and practical applications. This blog post aims to provide a thorough guide on crafting effective conclusions and recommendations in research papers, covering their objectives, components, and examples across various disciplines. Furthermore, it offers valuable resources and tools to aid researchers in creating compelling final sections of their studies, ensuring they are well-prepared for publication. The conclusion section is the final part of a research paper where the author wraps up the study and presents the key findings. It synthesizes the main points discussed in the paper, highlights the significance of the research, and suggests potential implications or applications. The conclusion leaves a lasting impression on the reader by including recommendations for future research or practical applications of the study's findings. In writing conclusions, researchers can employ several techniques to ensure their work is impactful: * Summarization: Provide a concise summary of the main findings and arguments presented in the paper. * Synthesis: Show how the information contributes to the overall understanding of the topic by synthesizing it. * Implications: Highlight the significance of the research findings and their broader implications. * Future research: Suggest areas for further investigation or unanswered questions. * Closure: Provide a sense of closure to the reader, ensuring the research paper feels complete and comprehensive. * Restatement of the thesis: Begin by restating the thesis or main research question, reflecting the insights gained from the study. Research recommendations are a crucial section of a research paper where the author suggests specific actions, areas for further study, or changes in practice based on the findings of the research. These recommendations aim to guide future research, inform policymakers and practitioners, and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the field by providing: * Guidance for future research: Offer a roadmap for future studies that can build on the current research or explore new aspects of the topic. * Practical applications: Suggest practical changes or actions that can be implemented based on the research findings. * Policy implications: Inform policy decisions or suggest policy changes. * Contribution to knowledge: Highlight potential areas where further research is needed. By following these guidelines, researchers can create compelling conclusions and recommendations that leave a lasting impression on the reader. Original text was about investigation findings in CSR impact on consumer loyalty, and some recommendations for retail companies to improve their CSR strategies. Rewritten (SE): The investigation found that corporashun social responsibility has a big positiv impact on customer loyalty. Specificly, companys that do envirnmental sustainability and community support tend to have higher customer retention rates. Its recommended that retail companys invest more in CSR strategies, such as reducing carbon footprint and supporting local communitis. Rewritten (NNEs): Investigation show dat corporate social responsibility very important for consumer loyalty. Specific action is that company must do sustainability and community support. For example, reduce carbon emission and help local people. This can make good impact on business success. Rewritten (IB): The investigation's findings suggest a strong correlation between CSR initiatives and increased customer retention rates. Notably, companies that prioritize environmental sustainability and community engagement tend to experience higher brand loyalty and customer satisfaction. Recommendations for retail businesses include investing in sustainable practices, such as reducing waste and supporting local causes, which can lead to long-term business success and a more loyal customer base. Urban green spaces have a profound impact on local air quality in metropolitan areas. A study of 20 cities worldwide found that areas with dense vegetation and large parklands saw an average reduction of 20% in nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and particulate matter (PM10) levels compared to those with minimal green cover. This is in line with previous research showing the role of vegetation in air purification and the mitigation of urban heat islands. The inclusion of a wider range of texts and perspectives in literary analysis can provide deeper insights into how Gothic fiction both reflected and shaped the anxieties of its time, offering a nuanced understanding of the genre's role in nineteenth-century society. Given text: play a crucial role in preparing research papers for publication by ensuring that the content is clear, coherent and professionally presented. Here is how different types of editing services can help specifically with conclusions and recommendations, as well as the overall quality of a research paper: Developmental editing focuses on the structure and content of the paper, ensuring logical flow and clarity. In particular, developmental editing can help with conclusions and recommendations. For instance, it improves the structure and clarity of conclusions and recommendations by ensuring they are logically organised and clearly articulated. Moreover, it provides feedback on the content, suggesting improvements or additions to make the conclusions and recommendations more impactful and comprehensive. Finally, developmental editing improves consistency by ensuring that the conclusions and recommendations are consistent with the findings and arguments presented in the body of the paper. The overall impact of developmental editing enhances the coherence and structure of the entire research paper. In addition, it ensures that all sections of the paper, including the conclusions and recommendations, align well with the research objectives and findings. Line editing focuses on improving the writing style, clarity and readability at the sentence and paragraph level. It improves the clarity and precision of the language used in the conclusions and recommendations, making them more understandable and impactful. Furthermore, it enhances the flow and readability, ensuring that the sections are engaging and easy to follow. Last, line editing adjusts the tone and style to ensure they are appropriate for the intended audience and purpose of the paper. The impact of line editing lies in enhancing the overall readability and engagement of the research paper and ensuring that the writing is clear, concise and professional. Copyediting focuses on correcting grammar, punctuation, spelling and syntax errors. It ensures that the conclusions and recommendations are free from grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors, enhancing professionalism. In addition, copyediting ensures consistency in terminology, formatting and style throughout the sections. Overall, it provides a polished and professional final draft and ensures that the paper adheres to the style guide or publication standards. Translation editing ensures that translated texts are accurate, culturally appropriate and retain the original meaning. First, translation editing ensures that the conclusions and recommendations in translated research papers accurately reflect the original content. Next, this service ensures that the language used is culturally appropriate and understandable to the target audience. Last, translation editing maintains consistency with the original paper's tone, style and terminology. All in all, translation editing facilitates the dissemination of research findings to a broader, multilingual audience. Furthermore, it ensures that translated research papers meet the same high standards as the original texts. Proofreading provides a final Proofreading is the process of reviewing written content to detect minor errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, and formatting. It plays a crucial role in ensuring the accuracy and professionalism of research papers by polishing conclusions and recommendations and maintaining consistency in formatting and presentation. Effective proofreading also enables researchers to submit error-free work for publication. A well-crafted conclusion synthesizes the study's main points, highlights its significance, and suggests potential implications or applications, summarizing findings, broadening implications, acknowledging limitations, and recommending future research. Key elements of a strong conclusion include restating the thesis, summarizing key points, discussing implications and limitations, and providing a compelling closing statement. Research recommendations offer specific actions, areas for further study, or changes in practice based on the findings, guiding future research, suggesting practical applications, informing policy decisions, and advancing knowledge. Well-crafted recommendations should be clear, justified, feasible, impactful, and prioritized.