Conclusion Paragraph – MLA Example

Your conclusion is going to reflect the rest of your paper in every way. For this example, it would be helpful for you to also look at the Sample Introduction Paragraph handout at the same time in order to see how the two are complements of each other.

If you are wondering if your paper even needs a conclusion, check if you have an introduction. If you have an introduction, then, chances are, you will need a conclusion. The length of your conclusion will also depend on the length of your introduction. As they are reflections of each other, they should be about the same length, give or take 2-3 lines.

By focusing on the time period, the social restrictions, and how events actually played out, the voyages of the Ming Dynasty were bold, ambitious ventures, led by proud and idealistic men until China’s economy depleted. Going by the film 1421 alone, that understanding would be close to impossible to achieve. Instead, the only real takeaway would be a series of hypotheticals and theories about the potential of the treasure ships and the expeditions rather than the truth of the events. The film distracts from Emperor Yongle and explorer Zheng He and focuses more on the semantics of the journey rather than the men and circumstances that lead them there, glazing over significant details like the conquering-drive behind the missions and the use of treasure ships.

Instead, the film offers speculation about what their treasure ships could have done, such as sailing across the Atlantic Ocean, rather than what they actually did, which was spread the influence of the Ming Dynasty. Though 1421 is like many films on the subject of Zheng He, the lack of any conclusive details makes it a film better suited for entertainment purposes rather than having any larger, historical applications.

Much like the thesis statement, your concluding thesis represents the whole of your paper; however, instead of declaring something, your concluding thesis will explain HOW it was accomplished. Think: “By doing _______, _____ happens.”

From this concluding thesis, the reader knows what was discussed in the paper as well as how it fit into the argument.

Do not quote or bring in new information in this section. Do not discuss anything that was not previously introduced in the introduction or addressed in the body of the paper.

Your conclusion should be more detailed about your paper than your introduction.

Rather than summarizing, reflect on your paper.

The last line of your paper is the last impression your reader will have. It should be powerful and place the argument in a wider context.