**Writing a Satisfying Conclusion**

**Three Steps:**

1. **Summarize Key Points**

* **Call Attention to the Most Important Things You Wrote About**:
  + Re-read your paper and pick out the MOST important main idea from your paper.
  + Write one sentence that summarizes the main idea of the paper.
  + In the conclusion, you aren’t giving new information.
  + Your reader should be able to tell what your main idea is from the first sentence of the conclusion paragraph.

1. **Connect Main Ideas to a Universal Human Experience that Helps Your Reader Connect**
   * Write 2-3 sentences to tell the reader why reading your paper was worthwhile.
   * Connect to your reader’s feelings by connecting what you wrote about to an experience or feeling everyone can relate to.
   * Human experiences, include: kindness, compassion, generosity, hard work, determination, love, loss, prejudice, war, power, passion, strength, growth, death, fear, happiness, accomplishment
2. **Provide Closure**
   * Answer “So What?” – tell your reader why you think what you wrote matters.
   * Share your own opinion about the how your writing connects with your own feelings.

**Example of a good conclusion**:

As you can see, Abraham Lincoln accomplished a great many things during his presidency of the United States. Woven through each of his accomplishments, however, was a single theme—the theme of unity. He sought always, through his speeches and his leadership style, to strengthen the sense of unity among those around him. He worked not only for the preservation of a divided country but for the preservation of the divided human spirit. As we struggle today with an increasingly global society, it might serve us well to remember the actions and decisions and life of this simple, humble man. Perhaps we should listen with a new kind of seriousness to those words that he honored not only within his most famous speech, but also by the way he lived his life: that “…all men are created equal.”