

## Conclusions for an Informative Essay

The rubric states “*Conclusion **powerfully** follows from and supports the information or explanation presented—while explaining the significance of the topics.*” For a “4” your conclusion needs a little “spice” or “punch.” Create something that raises the eyebrows of the reader and makes him or her say, “Nice. I like that.” This usually happens in the last few lines; your clincher statement.

Recommended steps:

1. **Rephrase your thesis statement**, but not word for word. You may want to use a key word “theme” or “style” for example, but word it differently than in your introduction paragraph.
2. **Reread your body paragraphs**. Usually, it is best to briefly summarize the important parts of your body paragraphs in a general way. Don’t use the same wording.
3. **Reread your introduction**. Can you “tieback” to the introduction in some way? If so, this is almost always a good idea.
4. **End with a clincher** that powerfully ends your paper so that you can get that “4”
5. Somewhere in this paragraph directly or indirectly explain the **significance of the thesis**.

**Warning: Do NOT introduce new information** in this last paragraph. (This is a common mistake)

### Basic Format

1. Write a transition and then rephrase your thesis statement.
2. Summarize the important points of the body paragraphs.
3. End with a clincher.

### Ideas for Clinchers

1. End with a **strong statement of truth**
2. End with a **tribute** to the text, the author or a character.
3. End with a **relevant quote** that ties into your thesis statement (from a credible outside source or from the book)
4. End with a **challenge or command**.
5. End with a **question Give an answer** to a common question.
6. End with a **metaphor**
7. End with the lines of a **poem or song**

Remember: Look for a tieback to your introduction.

- If you quoted a famous person in your intro, you can refer back to those words and make a statement of truth.
- If you asked a question in the introduction, you could end with an answer to that question.
- If your introduction had a few lines from a poem or song, you could refer to the next lines of the poem or song (or tell how the poem ended)
- If you told a brief story or anecdote in the intro, you could leave it unfinished until the clincher.
- If you began with a metaphor or extended metaphor, refer back to the metaphor and put a new twist on it. *So as the Phoenix rose from the ashes, we need to do likewise and come alive in the fight against...*

So Odysseus was an ancient hero who embarked on an epic perilous journey. His courage, strength and leadership helped him and his friends return to their home. As he told Polyphemus when he arrived on shore, "We are Achaians coming from Troy, beaten off our true course by winds from every direction across the great gulf of the open sea, making for home, by the wrong way, on the wrong courses. So we have come." The story of Odysseus reminds us of the hero in all of us. And "so we have come" just like Odysseus. We have our obstacles and we have gone astray, but we can always return home.

In summary, there are many aspects that make up a hero. Some heroes possess greater qualities than others and are able to help in greater ways. Odysseus shifted his mindset many times between his personal good and the safety of those around him. Qualities such as wisdom, creativity, and selflessness are major contributors to creating a hero. Heroes come in many shapes and sizes, but all have one true characteristic: the will to keep moving.

The Odyssey, one of the best epics in history, depicts many values that the human culture loves to see in a story. It contains the value of resisting temptation regardless of the cost. It illuminates the importance of trusting in your companions, as well as the ancient value of treating your guests with the utmost respect and hospitality. As Americans, we can only hope that we personify the values laid before us in this amazing story of a loyal man's journey. Maybe it's time for us to go on our own personal odyssey.

In conclusion, *The House on Mango Street's* young Esperanza teaches us numerous lessons through her struggles living in a poverty laden Latino neighborhood. We heard her heart ache over the oppression of the neighborhood women, her desire to escape to a new life and her coming of age. Although the little red house on Mango Street was not what Esperanza had imagined as her first real home, her first year there was full of experiences that made her a stronger person. One day she will be able to say good-bye to Mango Street only to enable herself to return for those who cannot leave.