

Essays → Writing a Good Concluding Paragraph Level: High School

A good concluding paragraph: summarizes the essay, shows you proved the point you set out to make, gives the reader a sense of completion, and leaves the reader remembering your main point. Use the conclusion's topic sentence to repeat the ideas in your thesis statement with greater understanding. Summarize the main points of your essay in the supporting sentences. Finally, in the closing sentence, connect to the introduction of the essay to show the importance of the main ideas.

The essay below is complete except for the conclusion. Read the essay. Then use the information in it to write a concluding paragraph for the essay.

The Arctic Tundra

The arctic tundra biome provides a home for only the hardiest of plants, animals, and birds. Living things must adapt to the tundra's harsh weather, alternating lack and overabundance of sunlight, and short growing season. As a result, this biome has fewer different organisms than other biomes. The organisms that survive in the tundra are highly adapted to the environment.

Plants in the tundra display adaptations that allow them to reproduce in the short tundra summers. In the tundra, aside from the very top layer of soil, much of the earth remains frozen all year long--the frozen soil is called permafrost. In order to grow, plants spread shallow roots close to the surface. Tundra summers last a mere 60 days, insufficient time for most plants to flower, fruit, and produce seeds. Instead, most tundra plants reproduce through runners that root and grow new plants. To combat the cold, plants develop dark red foliage to soak up the sun's warmth or grow hairs to hold warm air in. Despite the harsh conditions, some kinds of plants survive and thrive in the tundra.

Animal adaptations to the arctic tundra keep animals warm and protected in the harsh climate. Most tundra animals have warm coats, but no tundra animal seems better protected than the polar bear. A polar bear's skin is black to soak in heat. It's hair, though it appears white, is actually clear, allowing the sunlight to strike and warm the black skin below. Though mother polar bears spend several months in a den to care for newborn cubs, polar bears do not hibernate for the winter in the way that other bears do. A thick layer of fat under the skin in combination with sun-absorbing skin means polar bears can remain year-round in the tundra's cold temperatures.

Few birds remain in the arctic tundra all year. Some types of birds migrate north to breed and then spend the winters in warmer climates. Others, like the snowy owl, remain through the year and

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change their coloring as the winter months approach. Their barred grey and white summer feathers are replaced by white in winter, making it difficult for predators and prey alike to spot them. The owls' keen sense of hearing is also adapted to the climate, allowing them to hear and follow small rodents running under the snow. The snowy owls survive even in the harshest climate.
