

Six-Point Structural Framework for a Strong Conclusion Section

Structural Element	Description
1. Key findings	Summarize the key findings and explicitly link them to the (b) question.
2. Context	Situate the findings within existing research by connecting them to the information gathered through the references and interview(s). How do they align with or differ from previous studies?
3. Conclusion	This is where you state YOUR synthesis of the information you uncovered. What did all your information gathering reveal to you?
4. Unexpected results	Identify and interpret any (objectively) surprising or unexpected findings, explaining possible reasons for their occurrence.
5. Research limitations	Acknowledge study limitations and weaknesses, clearly explaining their impact on the research.
6. Future study ideas	Suggest areas for further research, highlighting gaps or questions that warrant deeper investigation.

Adapted from: Dunton, R. (2021). Discussion section for research papers. San José University Writing Center. <https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/docs/handouts/Discussion%20Section%20for%20Research%20Papers.pdf>