

Writing Experiment Conclusions

The purpose of conducting an experiment is to be a detective and decipher the answer to a question that interests you in an organized way using the scientific method. Writing your conclusion is an important part of the investigation. You want to share with everyone else what you found out in your sleuthing.

Since you've been following the scientific method throughout your investigation, you want to write an organized conclusion that summarizes your experimental findings in a clear and complete way. You write the conclusion after you finish the experiment and graph the data.

The conclusion gives a snapshot of what you accomplished so it contains summary information about the experiment as well as the conclusions. Here are the important points that a well-written conclusion includes:

- Restatement of the hypothesis. This sentence reminds your audience what you set out to accomplish.
- Short summary of the experiment. The summary includes just one or two sentences that explain how the experiment was conducted.
- What the data shows. State what the data showed in one or two sentences.
- Your conclusion. Clearly state how the data supports or doesn't support the hypothesis. Be accurate; an experiment that does not support its hypothesis is just as valuable as one that does.
- Changes to the experiment. Write a sentence that indicates how the experiment could be improved.
- What next? Give an idea of what question you'd like to explore next on this topic. This idea is related to the experiment you just did.
- Passive voice should be used.

Example conclusion:

The hypothesis was if coleus plants were given fertilizer the plants would grow taller than plants without fertilizer. Two sets of coleus plants were kept under the same conditions except for the amount of fertilizer. The coleus plants given one teaspoon of 10-10-10 fertilizer grew on average 2 ½ inches taller than plants without fertilizer. If this experiment were to be improved and continued or conducted again another group of plants could be added and given 2 teaspoons of fertilizer to see if these plants would grow even taller. Because of the results of this experiment, additional hypotheses could include if adding fertilizer would cause plants to produce more flowers as well as grow taller.