

Model Conclusions

Directions: Read the following speech conclusions. Evaluate the effectiveness of each conclusion by completing **Handout 40** for each conclusion. Check the items used in each conclusion.

1. When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Thank God almighty, we are free at last!" (from a speech entitled, "I Have A Dream" by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)
2. Cancer quackery, as well as victims of that quackery, will be around as long as the disease remains unconquered. It's up to the rest of us to keep the list of victims as small as we possibly can. (from a speech by Helene Brown)
3. Henry David Thoreau stated that "Dreams are the touchstones of our character." We are warned that wicked dreams develop into wicked acts. But conversely, don't beautiful dreams develop into beautiful acts? Of course, they do! Daydreamers, stand up! Be proud of what you are, and may your dreams come true. (from a speech entitled, "Daydreaming" by Jeff Ward)

Checklist for Evaluating Conclusions

Directions: Check the item used

- 1. is brief and simple
- 2. is unified
- 3. is memorable
- 4. uses a summary
- 5. draws a conclusion
- 6. restated ideas
- 7. transitions were used
- 8. another solution or answer is offered
- 9. use of techniques: quotation, anecdote, humor, question, punch lines
- 10. leaves the audience with a sense of completion
- 11. fits the strategy of development
- 12. crates a lasting impression on the listener
- 13. is appropriate for the audience, purpose, and subject

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Writing Conclusions

Directions: Using one or more of the strategies for writing conclusions, write conclusions for the following sets. Keep in mind the checklist for evaluating conclusions. *(30 second minimum)*

1. **Set:** You have just written a speech on how to brush your teeth properly. Your introduction will last one minute, your body three minutes, and your conclusion thirty seconds. Write the conclusion for this speech.

Conclusion:

2. **Set:** You have just written a speech explaining what occurs when a car moves. You have used the following chain of events: (1) gas and air mixed; (2) mixture is forced into engine; (3) spark ignites mixture; (4) mixture explodes; (5) explosion produces heat; (6) heat expands the air in the engine cylinder; (7) expanding air forces the pistons to move; (8) pistons are connected to a series of moving parts; (9) the moving parts cause the back wheels to move. Now, write a conclusion for this speech.

Conclusion: