

CONCLUSION

In the Body of the paper, you summarized the main arguments or points for both sides – *fully, fairly, and objectively* – just reporting on the two sides to the issues without any personal opinion or bias.

So now in the Conclusion, you're looking to assess the two sides' weaknesses/strengths of argument, and that assessment comes in part from what you mentioned in the abstracts' "evaluation" section.

Remember, you're not assessing the articles again (been there/done that/got the "abstracts" t-shirt); now you're assessing the sides (opponents'/proponents' arguments - which you summarized in the Body of the paper).

In the Conclusion, you're looking at the weaknesses in argument of the 1st side:

- poor reasoning, based on emotion instead of facts,
- dubious sources, bias,...

Then look at the strengths of the 2nd side you summarized (basically the side you lean toward)

- logic, facts, proof, logos,...

Side #3 (*the most important part of the paper, in my opinion*) is where you'll make some concessions/compromises (strengths of S1, weaknesses of S2) *in order to move the argument forward*. Make some suggestions - NO proof/research, just your own thinking, don't even have to work, but at least they're moving us forward instead of just 2 sides bashing heads.

There's a Side #3 handout on the RIOE page.

It might help to structure the Conclusion as 3 separate paragraphs instead of 1 long one; that way each part is given its due.