English Essay: Writing a Conclusion

1. Summarize how the evidence in the body of the paper supports the thesis statement.

   Ex: From his fixation on the witches’ statement that Banquo’s children will become kings, to his determination to wipe out all of Macduff’s descendants, to the extravagance of his reference to Donalbain’s dead father, Macbeth demonstrates that he’s so obsessed with other men’s possession of the heirs that he himself lacks that he’s terrified of children and willing to kill them.

   OR

   Whether through Macbeth’s bemoaning his own lack of sons as he plots to kill Fleance, or through Young Siward’s being the only named person Macbeth kills on the battlefield at Dunsinane, the play emphasizes Macbeth’s obsession with his lack of a son and the cowardice that drives him to attack youths.

2. Branch out: make a connection or a judgment.

   Ex: [Making a connection:] Macbeth may not shrink from action as Hamlet does, but in commanding the murders of women and children, he proves himself far more cowardly.

   OR

   Ex: [Making a judgment:] Staging the murders of women and children, Macbeth is an unflinching depiction of the struggle to hold onto political power by any means necessary.

DON’T just restate your thesis.

DO leave the reader thinking about your topic and its importance.