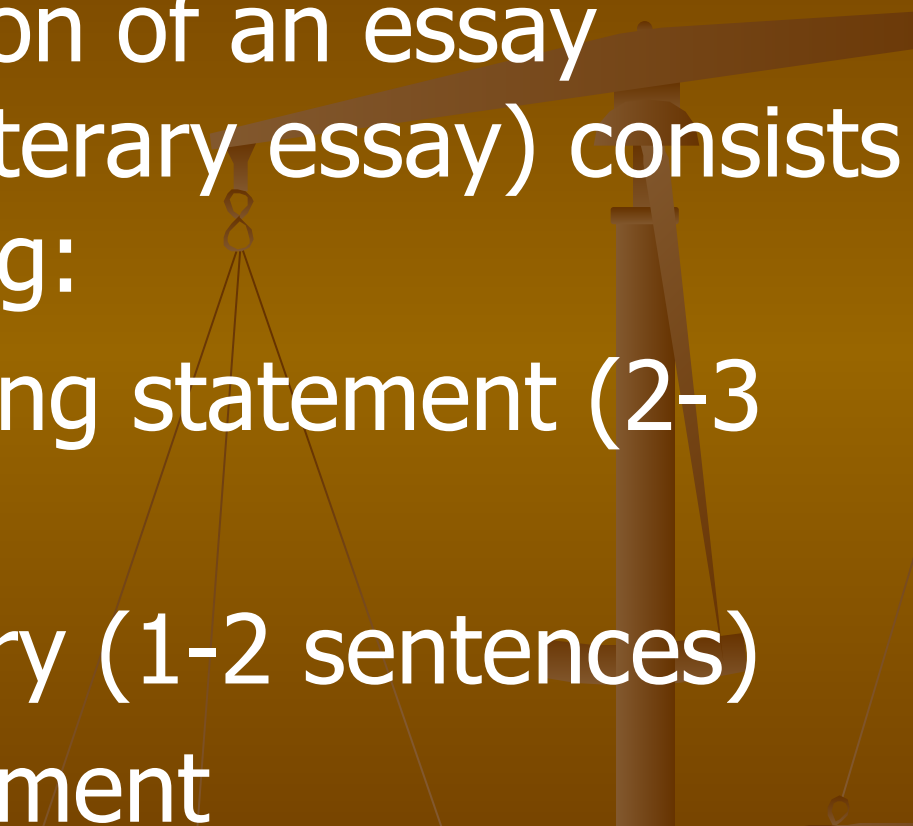


The Writing Process

Introductions and
Conclusions

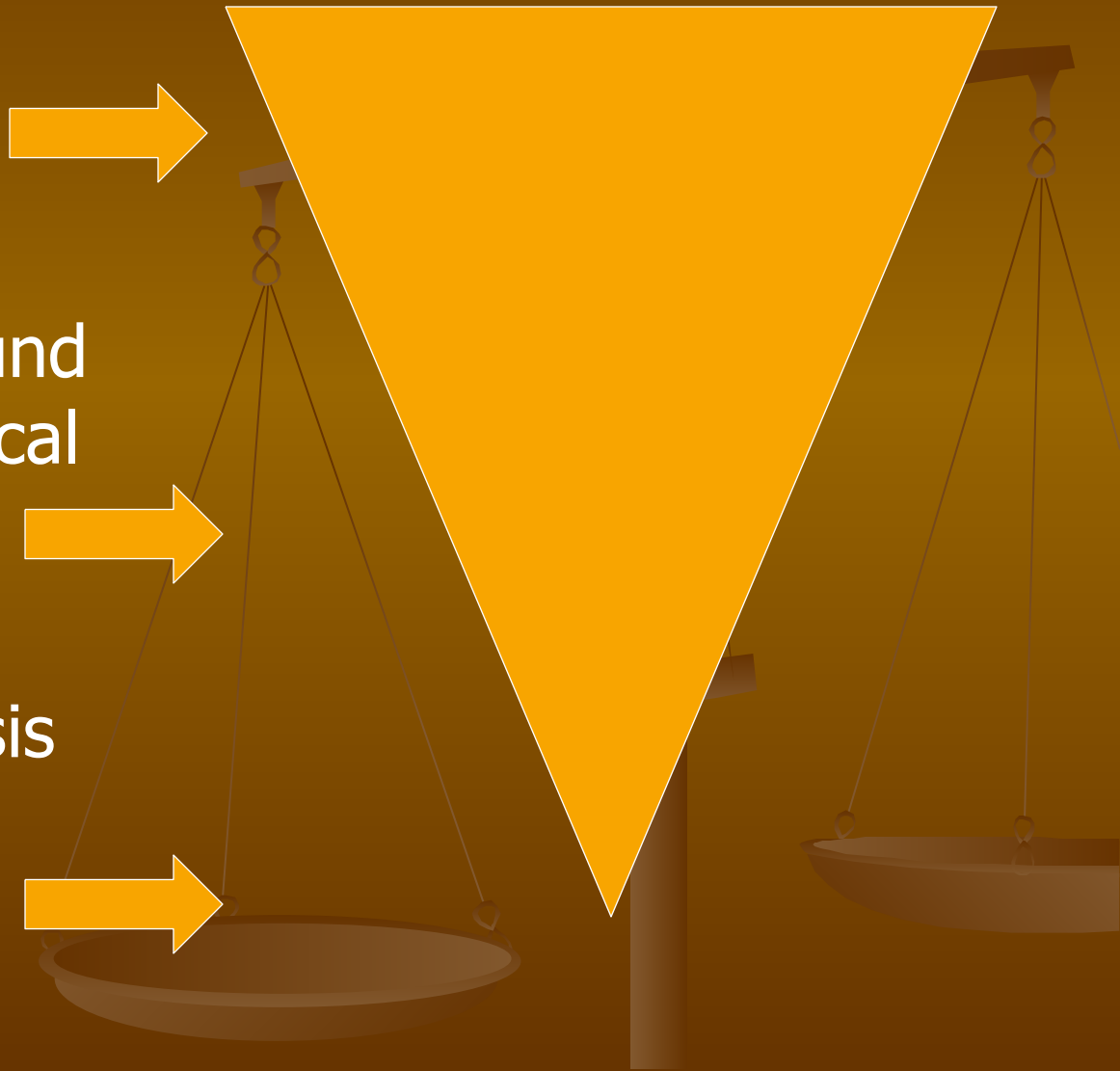


Introductions

- The introduction of an essay (especially a literary essay) consists of the following:
 - Broad opening statement (2-3 sentences)
 - Plot summary (1-2 sentences)
 - Thesis statement
- 

Introduction: Broad to Specific

- Broad Opening statement
- General background of book or historical event
- Transition to thesis statement

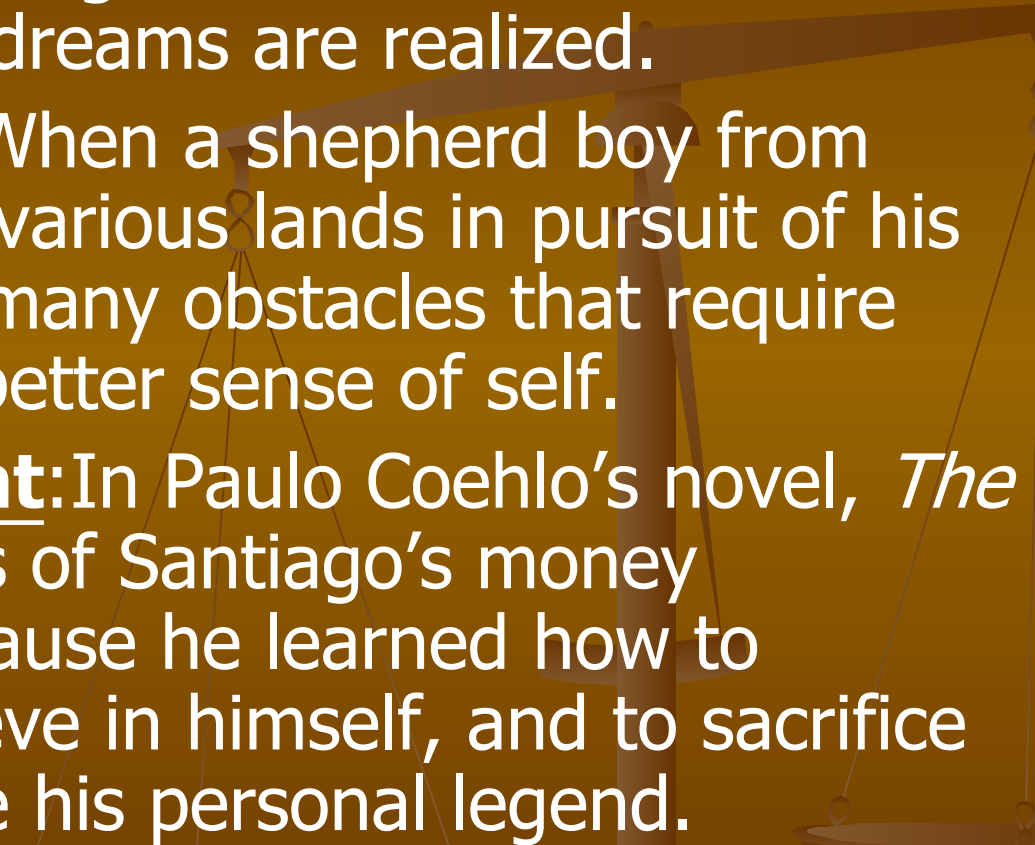


Introduction

- A hero is subject to the scrutiny and judgments of those around him. He is expected to exhibit the traits and behaviors that exemplify the moral standard for all to follow. While reading literature it is often assumed that the protagonist is the hero, even if a tragic hero. However, in J.D. Salinger's novel, The Catcher in the Rye, Holden Caulfield's mental instability, frequent lying, and use of obscene language make him an anti-hero.

Example Introduction

- While striving to attain one's dreams can often require hard work, good fortune, and even setbacks, the internal lessons that one learns strengthens value and satisfaction when dreams are realized. When a shepherd boy from Spain ventures to various lands in pursuit of his dreams, he faces many obstacles that require him to develop a better sense of self. In Paulo Coehlo's novel, *The Alchemist*, the loss of Santiago's money benefited him because he learned how to persevere, to believe in himself, and to sacrifice in order to achieve his personal legend.

- 
- **Broad statement:** While striving to attain one's dreams can often require hard work, good fortune, and even setbacks, the internal lessons that one learns strengthens value and satisfaction when dreams are realized.
 - **Plot Summary:** When a shepherd boy from Spain ventures to various lands in pursuit of his dreams, he faces many obstacles that require him to develop a better sense of self.
 - **Thesis Statement:** In Paulo Coelho's novel, *The Alchemist*, the loss of Santiago's money benefited him because he learned how to persevere, to believe in himself, and to sacrifice in order to achieve his personal legend.

Strategies for Writing a Conclusion

- Conclusions are often the most difficult part of an essay to write, and many writers feel that they have nothing left to say after having written the paper.
- A writer needs to keep in mind that the conclusion is often what a reader remembers best. Your conclusion should be the best part of your paper.

A conclusion should:

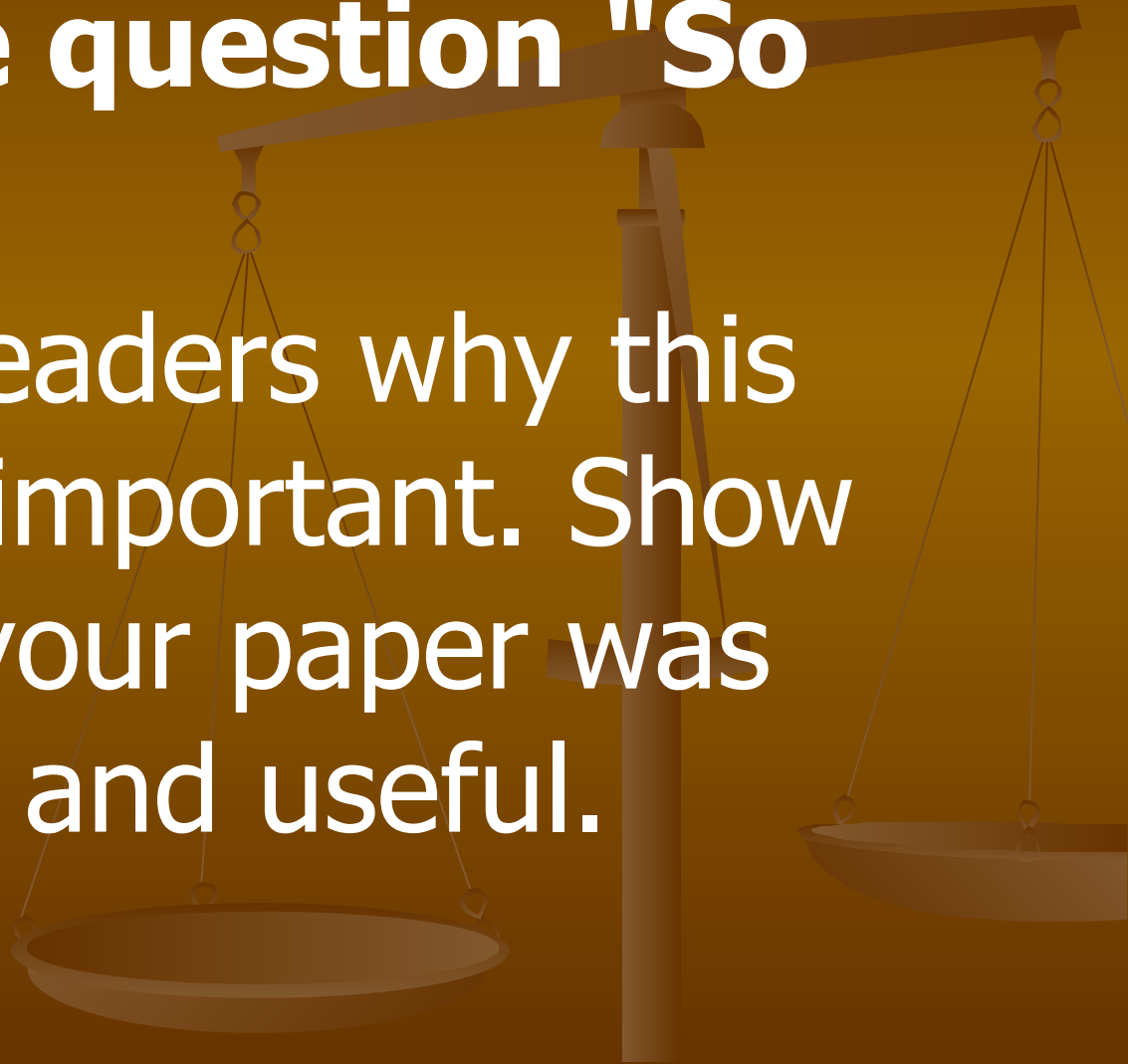
- stress the importance of the thesis statement,
- give the essay a sense of completeness, and
- leave a final impression on the reader.



Suggestions for Conclusions:

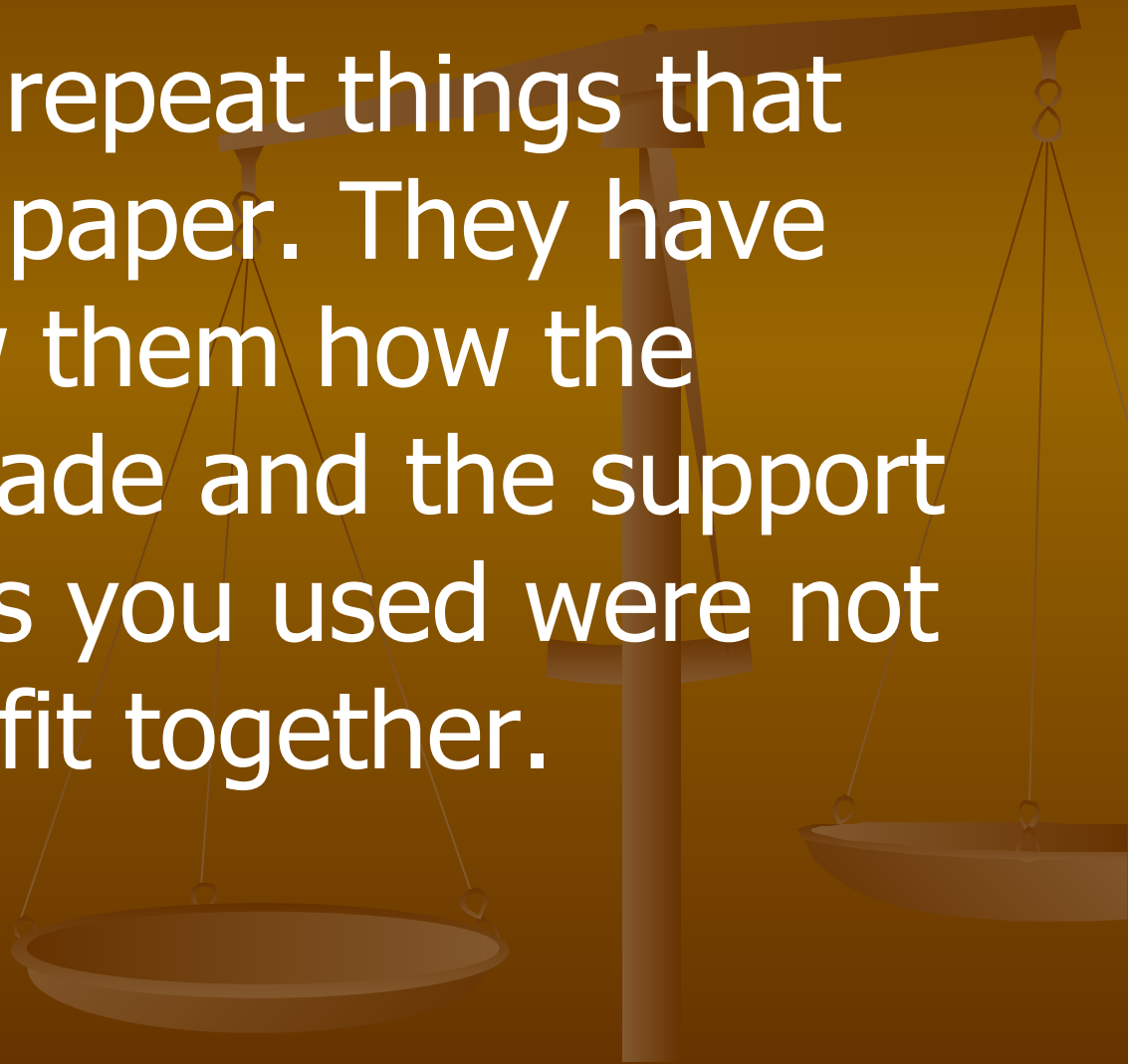
**Answer the question "So
What?"**

Show your readers why this paper was important. Show them that your paper was meaningful and useful.



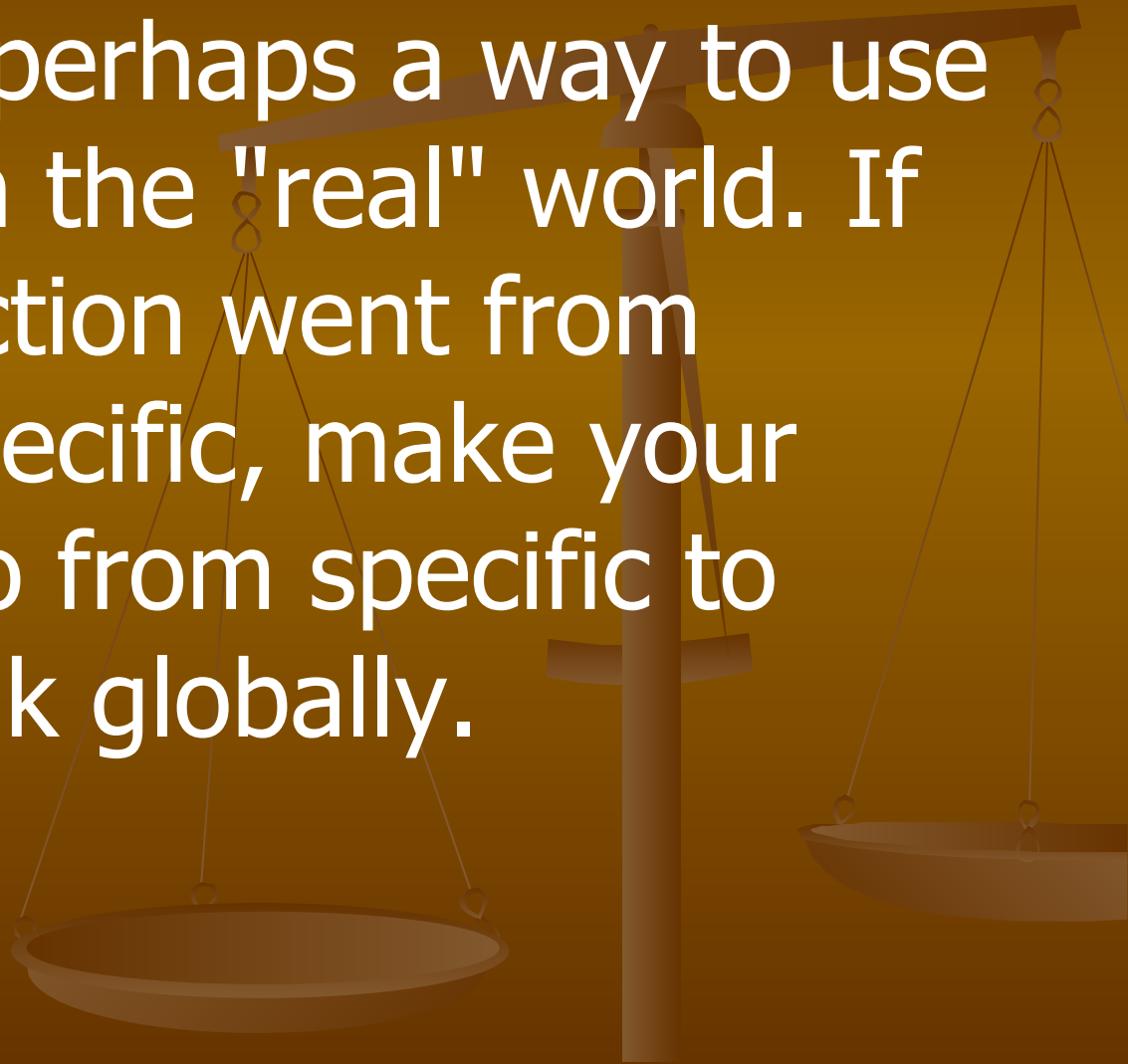
■ Synthesize, don't summarize

- Don't simply repeat things that were in your paper. They have read it. Show them how the points you made and the support and examples you used were not random, but fit together.



■ **Redirect your readers**

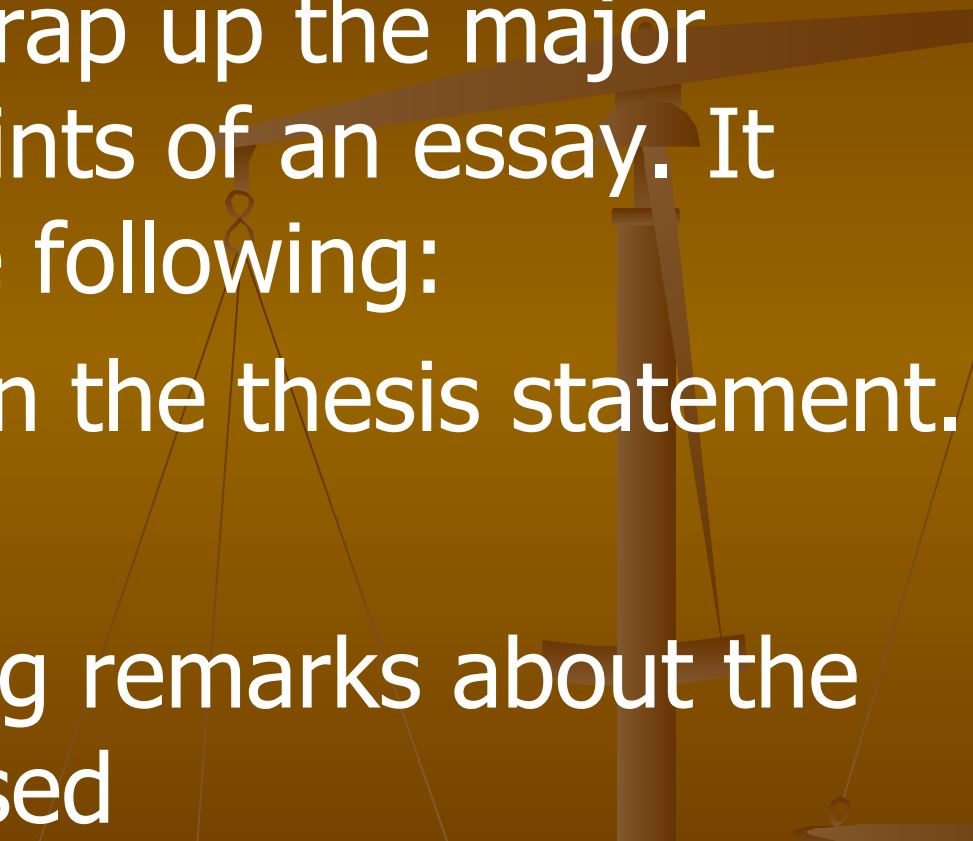
- Give your reader something to think about, perhaps a way to use your paper in the "real" world. If your introduction went from general to specific, make your conclusion go from specific to general. Think globally.



■ Create a new meaning

- You don't have to give new information to create a new meaning. By demonstrating how your ideas work together, you can create a new picture. Often the sum of the paper is worth more than its parts.

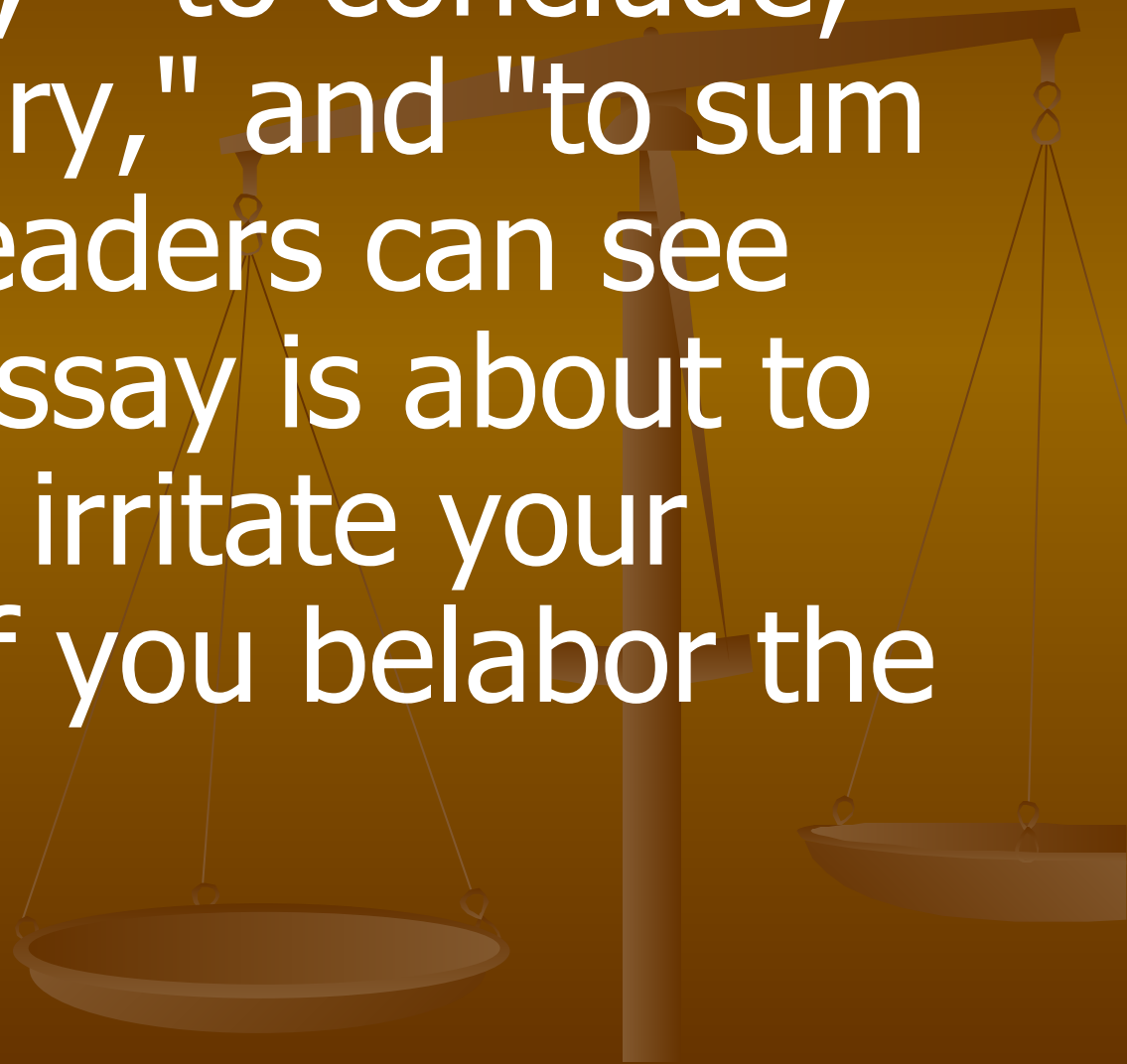
Conclusions

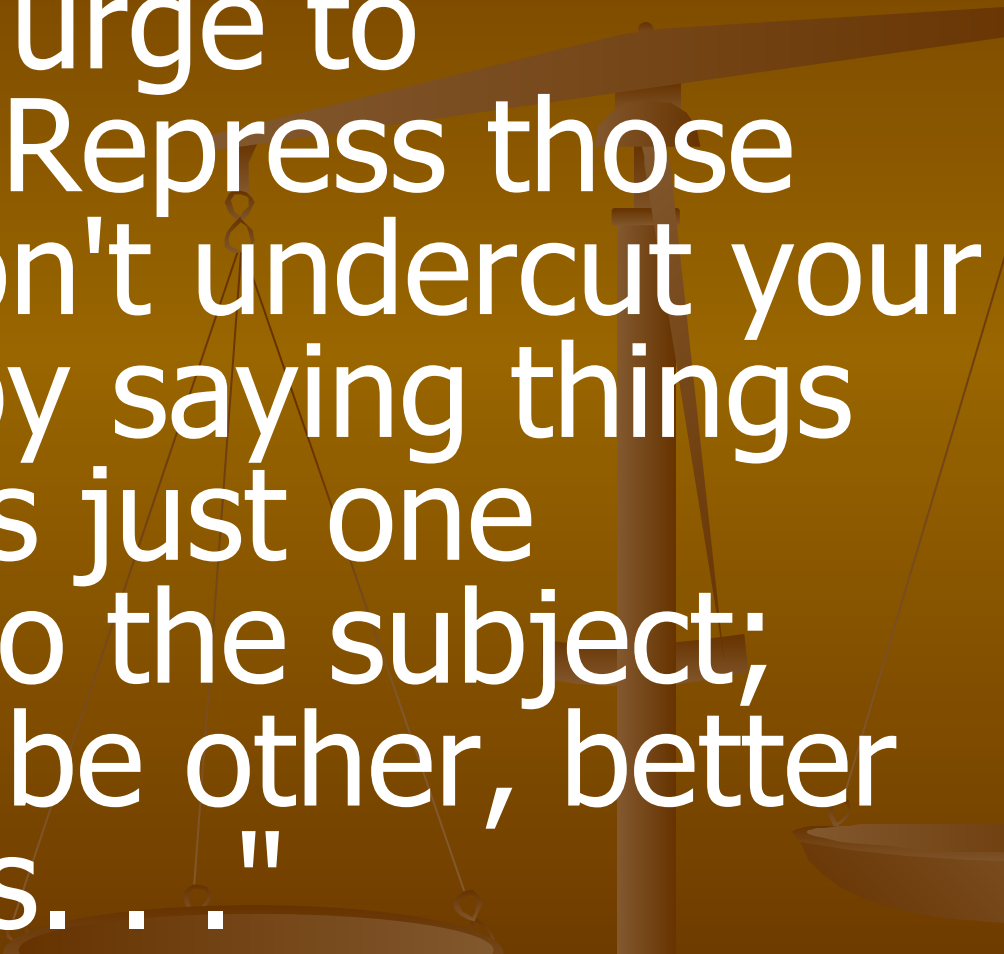
- Conclusions wrap up the major arguments/points of an essay. It consists of the following:
 - Reflection on the thesis statement.
 - Broad ending remarks about the topic discussed
- 

How not to end an essay:

- Don't simply summarize your essay. Shorter essays (less than 10 pages) tend not to require a restatement of your main ideas.

- Avoid phrases like "in conclusion," "to conclude," "in summary," and "to sum up." But readers can see when an essay is about to end. You'll irritate your audience if you belabor the obvious.

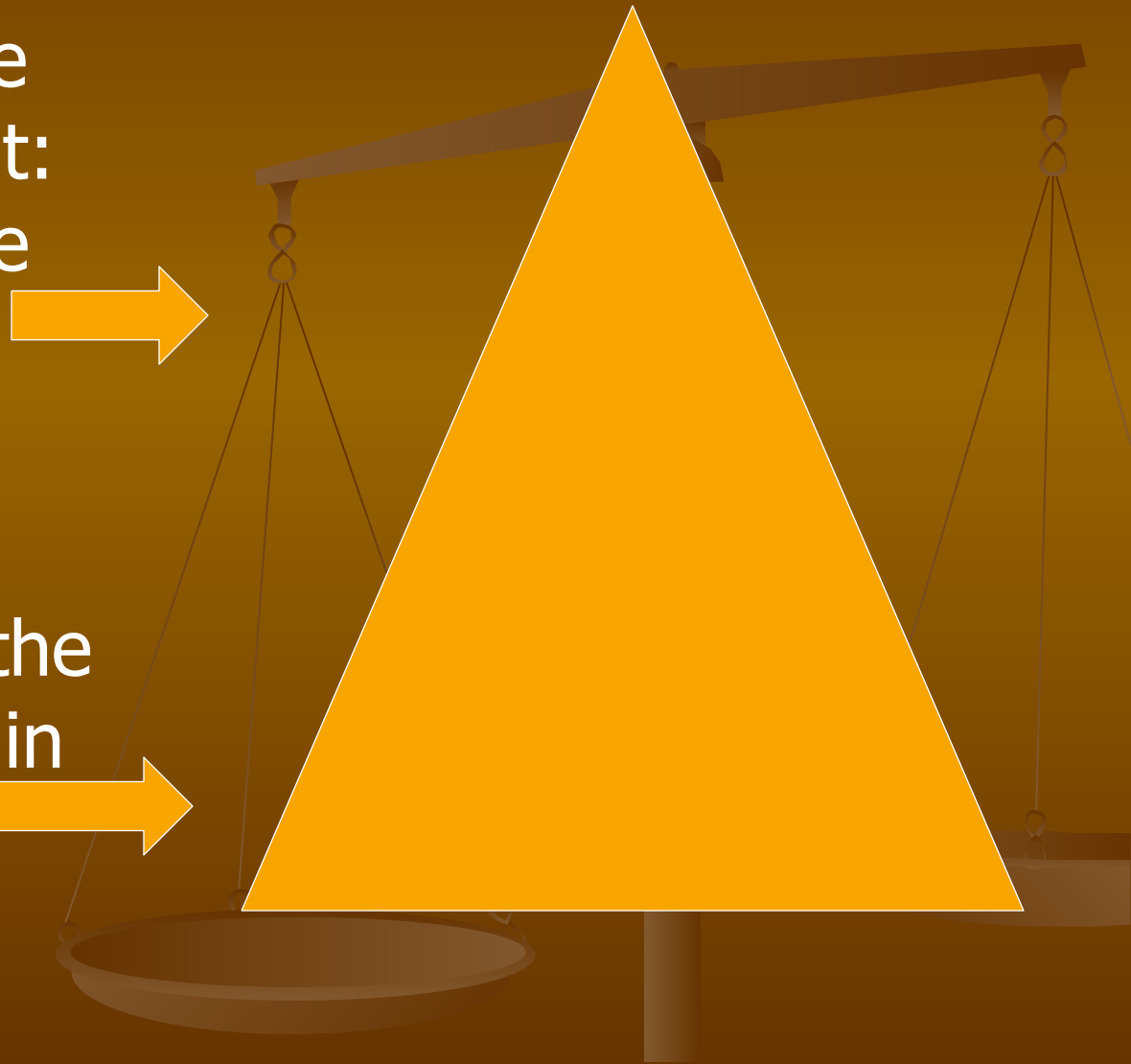




■ Resist the urge to apologize. Repress those doubts. Don't undercut your authority by saying things like, "this is just one approach to the subject; there may be other, better approaches. . . ."

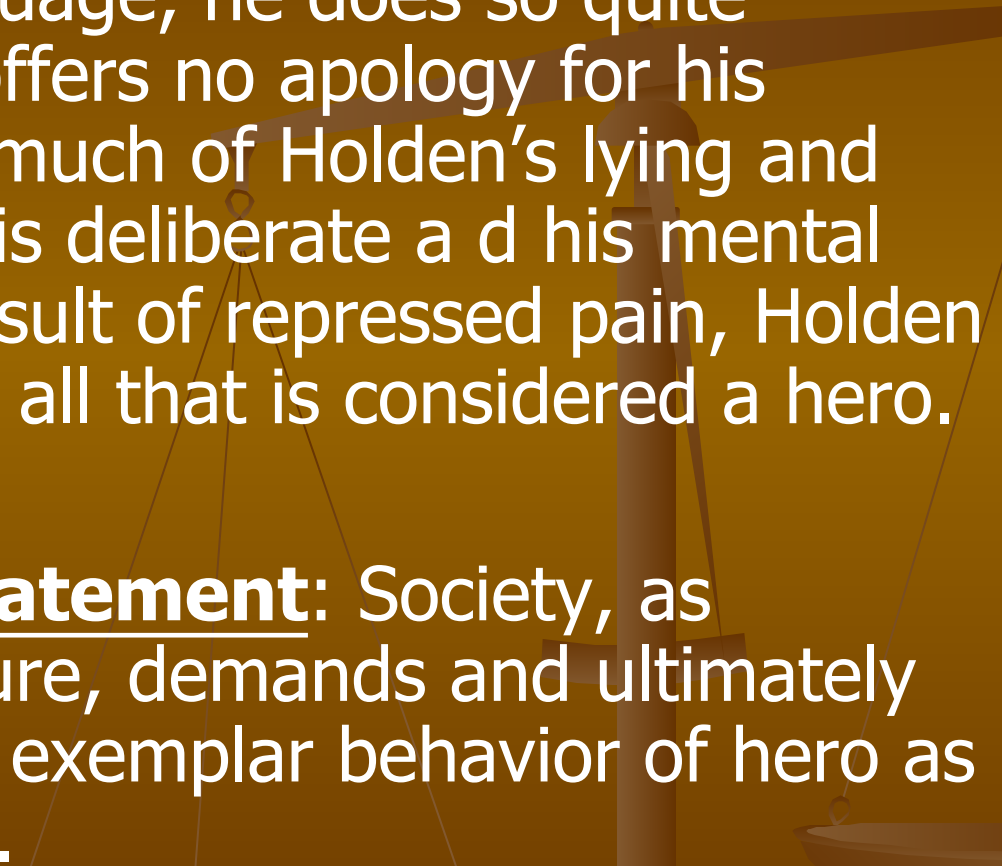
Conclusion: Specific to Broad

- Reflect upon the thesis statement:
Synthesize three main subtopics
- Broad, general remarks about the topic discussed in essay



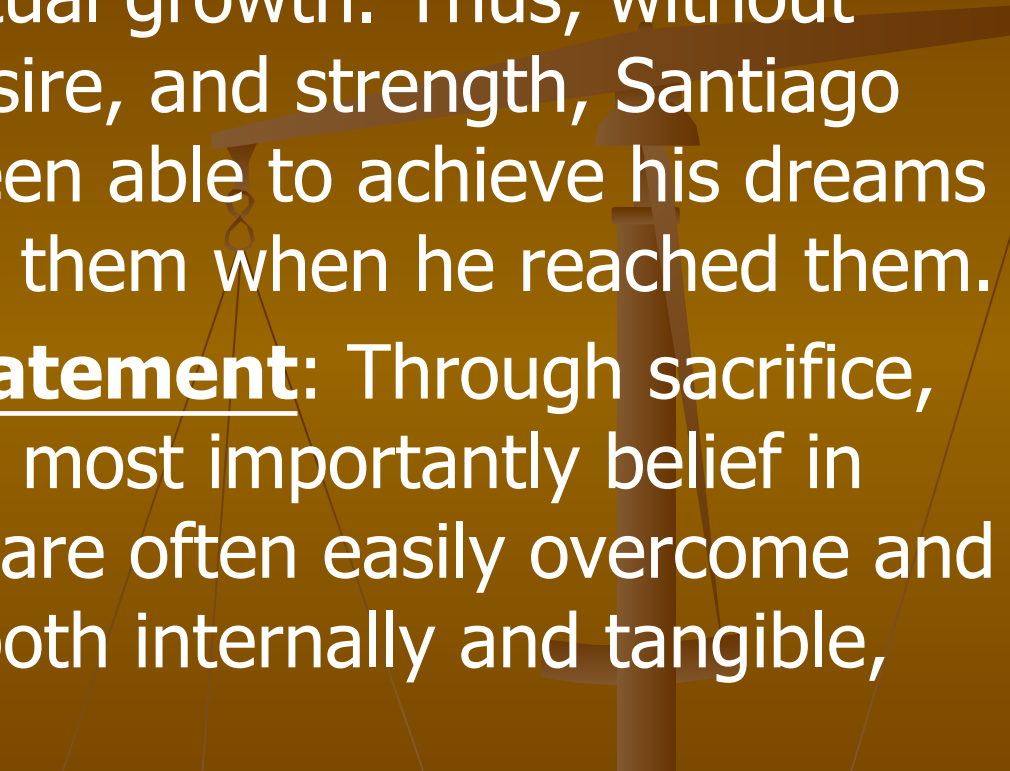
Example Conclusion

- Throughout the story, Holden exhibits less than admirable traits and behaviors with full intention. When he lies and uses obscene language, he does so quite purposefully and offers no apology for his actions. Although much of Holden's lying and profane language is deliberate and his mental instability is the result of repressed pain, Holden is the antithesis of all that is considered a hero. Society, as reflected in literature, demands and ultimately depends upon the exemplar behavior of hero as a model to imitate.

- 
- **Reflection on Thesis:** Throughout the story, Holden exhibits less than admirable traits and behaviors with full intention. When he lies and uses obscene language, he does so quite purposefully and offers no apology for his actions. Although much of Holden's lying and profane language is deliberate and his mental instability is the result of repressed pain, Holden is the antithesis of all that is considered a hero.
 - **Broad Ending Statement:** Society, as reflected in literature, demands and ultimately depends upon the exemplar behavior of hero as a model to imitate.

Example Conclusion

- The fulfillment of Santiago's Personal Legend was a testament to his ability to understand his own potential for moral and intellectual growth. Thus, without testing his will, desire, and strength, Santiago would not have been able to achieve his dreams or truly appreciate them when he reached them. Through sacrifice, perseverance, and most importantly belief in oneself, obstacles are often easily overcome and greater rewards, both internally and tangible, are enjoyed.

- 
- **Reflection on thesis:** The fulfillment of Santiago's Personal Legend was a testament to his ability to understand his own potential for moral and intellectual growth. Thus, without testing his will, desire, and strength, Santiago would not have been able to achieve his dreams or truly appreciate them when he reached them.
 - **Broad ending statement:** Through sacrifice, perseverance, and most importantly belief in oneself, obstacles are often easily overcome and greater rewards, both internally and tangible, are enjoyed.

