Introductions and Conclusions

Introductions:
1. The introduction guides the readers’ attention to the ideas you will present.

2. The introduction generally begins with a general statement and becomes more specific, or tells a story that illustrates the point you will be making.

3. What the introduction should do:
   --help readers to anticipate the tone of the essay
   --appeal to readers
   --announce the subject of the essay
   --provide necessary background
   --provide framework and purpose of essay
   --end with your **thesis statement**

4. The introduction can contain:
   --a startling statistic or unusual fact
   --a vivid example
   --a description
   --a paradoxical statement
   --a hypothetical situation
   --a definition of terms
   --a quotation
   --a question you plan on answering
   --an analogy
   --a joke or an anecdote

The introduction should not:
--apologize for the topic or content
--begin with gross overstatement
--begin with clichés
--include a signpost (ex: “In this essay, I will…”)

5. Thesis Statement:

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

Adapted from *The Penguin Handbook* and the BHSU English Department by Lisa Krugh
Black Hills State University Writing Center, 2007.
Conclusions:

1. The conclusion is meant to summarize your purpose and prepare your reader to “return to the world”

2. The conclusion can:
   --restate or summarize your point(s)
   --create/use an image or example which epitomizes your topic
   --call your reader to action
   --explore the implications of the topic
   --pose a question for further study
   --offer advice
   --convey a sense of completion
   --revisit the story or example from the introduction

The conclusion should not:

--introduce new ideas
--end too quickly

--apologize for what you have said
--contradict your thesis