

Structure of this section of your report

A generic structure that you may find useful is:

- Brief recap of what you have covered in relation to the essay title.
- Reference to the larger issue.
- Highlight the most important aspects.
- Evaluate the main arguments.
- Take-home message.

See page 104 for a detailed explanation of these. Here is an exemplar conclusion:

EPQ title: **How does Geoffrey Chaucer present women in *The Canterbury Tales*?**

Brief recap	This essay has looked at the debate surrounding the way in which Chaucer presents the role of women in his work.
Reference to the larger issue	In Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales', female narrators and characters function as a focus to explore women's gender roles and their struggle for maistre (sovereignty). Even though Chaucer is a man writing about women, he experiments with the feminine voice, thus he uses his tales to disseminate his knowledge of women's unfair oppression, perhaps hoping to spark a discussion on women's subjugation.
Highlight the most important aspects	Chaucer wrote in a misogynistic era where women were seen as either pure or sinful, known as the Mary and Eve dichotomy. Yet many of his tales challenge this medieval stereotype of women. According to Martin (1990) Chaucer's female narrators cannot be judged by today's standards of feminism; however, when they are examined from the medieval point of view, 'the undertone of feminism in their behaviour and tales emerges. They are concerned with bettering the conditions for women, they challenge the authorities in their tales'.
Evaluate the main arguments	In the 'Clerk's Tale', I have highlighted Griseld's qualities of weakness and virtue that comply with the medieval Mary stereotype but consider the alternative view that in her pursuit of virtue Griseld's abandons motherly compassion. Concerning the Merchant's Tale, May's ability to deceive conforms to the Eve stereotype but alternatively as a peasant woman who overpowers her socially superior husband she is arguably a Marxist feminist figure of interest. In the 'Wife of Bath's Tale' the protagonist can be seen as both a pro- and anti-feminist model. Finally, Chaucer finds a middle ground between the chaste and pure women by presenting Dorigen in the 'Franklin's Tale' as her husband's equal in marriage but also as a woman striving to maintain her reputation and faithfulness. She is unafraid to assert her opinion and this is what leads to success in marriage.
Take-home message	Chaucer's varied portrayal of female characters suggests that he completely rejects the accepted medieval female stereotypes, opting to portray that there existed not just one single medieval woman but some who conformed to the medieval ideal while others did not.

YASEF'S EPQ ON CHAUCER

Appendices

Items that can usefully go in the appendices are those that a reader would want to see, but which would take up too much space and disrupt the flow if placed within the main text. Make sure you reference the appendices within the main text where necessary (i.e. 'see Appendix I').

Headings

Each appendix should be identified by a Roman numeral in sequence, i.e. Appendix I, Appendix II, etc. Each appendix should contain different material.

Don't go overboard and produce masses of extra material – it won't win the respect of a moderator who then has to wade through masses of material. Make sure you include the essentials from this list:

- Standardised instructions.
- Raw data, e.g. test scores for each participant.
- Consent forms.
- Debriefing scripts.
- Explanation of formulas for data analysis.
- Specialised computer programs for a particular procedure.
- Full generic names of chemicals or compounds that you have referred to in somewhat abbreviated fashion or by some common name in the text of your paper.
- Diagrams of specialised apparatus.
- Copies of questionnaires (one blank and one completed with names removed).

Figures and tables in appendices

Figures, graphs and tables are often found in an appendix. These should be formatted as discussed previously (see page 85) but are numbered in a separate sequence from those found in the body of the paper. So, the first figure in the appendix would be Figure 1, the first table would be Table 1, etc.

Conclusion words

Writing a conclusion can be challenging but it need not be. Here are some words that will help you to write the conclusion to your EPQ. Most of the time, using the word or phrase in the middle of a sentence is better than making it the first word of the conclusion.

in fact	for these reasons
in effect	as a result of
indeed	altogether
clearly	surely
overall	truly
all in all	due to
obviously	definitely
ultimately	thus
consequently	

EXERCISE 4.10 Conclusions

Highlight the conclusion words used in the text below and identify the take-home message.

Whether 'medical marijuana' (*Cannabis sativa* used to treat a wide variety of pathologic states) should be accorded the status of a legitimate pharmaceutical agent has long been a contentious issue. In effect the decision whether to legalise the medical use of marijuana should be based on a dispassionate scientific analysis. Indeed, a number of such investigations have recently been published in the peer-reviewed literature. Data from these studies suggest that medical marijuana has demonstrated safety and efficacy in treating several devastating human pathologies. Some individuals as a result may believe that this documentation now warrants marijuana's approval for use as a legitimate therapeutic agent. Others may think that additional scientific scrutiny is necessary. So should marijuana be approved as a bona fide medication? In conclusion, this essay was not intended to provide an answer, instead it has strongly argued in favour of the concept that scientific data and methodology, rather than political and ideological considerations, ultimately should lead to a rational decision. Whether the data derived from current and future scientific investigations will justify the approval or disapproval of medical marijuana remains a challenging issue for the future.

See suggested answers on page 124.