

Sample essay: conclusion

This is the concluding paragraph—its job is to sum up the essay—NOT add new material

The first sentence sums up the essay

There is one sentence for each topic covered in the essay

Rather, Jerome's significance lies in the influence of his scholarly writings. By his authorship of the Vulgate, it is said that he "stands supreme among those who mediated the religious heritage of Hebrew and Greek antiquity to the Latin world."¹ His other writings largely determined the spirit of the Medieval church for a thousand years—its monasticism, its superstition, and its subjection to hierarchical authority. For us today, his rich descriptions of Christian and pagan society at an important epoch of the world are of considerable historical value. But, as can be seen from his own writings, Jerome's influence is not without blemish. His defence of superstitious customs and his obsequious deference to episcopal authority helped steer the Church along a path which many have since had cause to regret.

Finally the writer sums up their personal judgement—concluding that Jerome's heritage is both good and bad

Here is the bibliography, it is often on a new page. Here you list all the books, articles, etc. you have used in your essay. This is usually works you have referenced in the essay. However, sometimes a lecturer asks for all work you have used in preparation whether referred to or not.

Bibliography

Ackroyd, P.R. *Cambridge History of the Bible, Vol. 1: From Beginnings to Jerome*. London: Cambridge University Press, 1970.

Chadwick, H. *The Early Church*. London: Penguin, 1967.

Cutts, E.L. *St Jerome*. London: SPCK, 1911.

Everyman's Encyclopaedia, Vol. 7. Article 'Jerome', 6th ed. London: J.M. Dent & Sons, 1978.

Hall, S.G. *Doctrine & Practice in the Early Church*. London: SPCK, 1991.

Hughes, L. *The Christian Church in the Epistles of St Jerome*. New York: Macmillan, 1923.

Schaff, P. and H. Wace. *Nicene & Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church, Vol. VI: St Jerome: Letters & Select Works*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1957.

Remember to format your bibliography in SBL style. You can find examples in the First Steps course, in 10 Essentials for Assignments, in the printed version, in the library on the Closed Reserve shelves, or in the SBL Guide.

¹ *Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics, Vol. 7*, article "Jerome".