

CONCLUSION

- » The video that accompanies this lesson offers more insight and commentary that will help you prepare an effective narrative as part of your comprehensive mitigation strategy.
- » https://youtu.be/LLEdr5Ko_gA

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- » Write a persuasive conclusion that ties together every section of the sentencing narrative.
- » Emphasize remorse, accountability, and transformation in a concise closing statement.
- » Ask for mercy or leniency in a respectful, credible manner.
- » Understand how the conclusion serves as the “final impression” for the judge.

Lesson Summary

The conclusion is the final section of your sentencing narrative. Unlike earlier parts, which provide detail and depth, the conclusion should be **short, powerful, and direct**. Its purpose is to leave the judge with a clear picture of who you are today, what you have learned, and how you intend to live going forward.

The transcript emphasizes that this is not a place for new arguments, excuses, or excessive length. By this point, you have already shown the judge your background, the influences that led to your crime, the lessons you’ve learned, and the steps you are taking to make things right. The conclusion simply ties all of those threads together into a statement of **remorse, transformation, and forward-looking commitment**.

A strong conclusion acknowledges three truths:



1. The harm cannot be undone. Recognize the damage caused to society, to your family, and to those you pulled into your conduct. Avoid minimizing or rationalizing.
2. The responsibility is yours. Accept that consequences are necessary and that you alone bear responsibility for your actions.
3. The future can be different. Show that you have changed—and that your change is demonstrated through action, not words.

In the sample video, I hope you will see the importance of tone. You are not asking to avoid punishment; you are showing the judge why you are a candidate for mercy. This can be phrased respectfully:

- » Honorable Judge, I accept the law requires consequences. What I ask is that you consider the sincerity of my remorse, the transformation I have worked hard to begin, and my pledge to continue living responsibly.

The conclusion may also directly ask the judge for mercy. If you believe it fits, you can write: *“If you sense that I am a candidate for rehabilitation, I ask that you have mercy on me at sentencing.”* A request like this, framed with humility, can be effective.

Finally, remember that the conclusion is not only for sentencing. It will also serve as part of your larger mitigation strategy—supporting prison program eligibility, supervised release petitions, and even clemency applications. Judges and officials want to see consistency, and your conclusion reinforces your pledge to live differently moving forward.

Key Takeaways

- » Keep the conclusion short, sincere, and forward-looking.
- » Emphasize remorse, accountability, and transformation.
- » Accept punishment while respectfully requesting mercy.
- » End with a clear pledge: this is not a short-term promise, but a lifelong commitment.



Self-Directed Exercise

Draft your **Conclusion** (300—500 words). In it:

1. Acknowledge that you cannot undo the past.
2. Accept full responsibility for your conduct.
3. Express remorse and gratitude for the opportunity to change.
4. Respectfully request that the judge consider your transformation and view you as a candidate for mercy.
Save this as the final section of your sentencing narrative.

Assessment Questions

1. Multiple choice: The main purpose of the Conclusion is to—
 - ◇ a) Introduce new facts about the case
 - ◇ b) Restate legal arguments
 - ◇ c) Tie together themes of remorse, accountability, and transformation
 - ◇ d) Minimize responsibility
2. True/False: The Conclusion should be the longest section of the sentencing narrative.
3. Short answer: Write one respectful way to ask a judge for mercy in your conclusion.
4. What three themes should every Conclusion emphasize?
5. Short answer: Why is it important that your Conclusion be consistent with the rest of your narrative?

Conclusion—from sample video lesson

The steps I have described are not temporary measures but the foundation of how I intend to live from this point forward. Reconciliation is a lifelong process, and I accept that responsibility fully. My journey is one of ongoing



personal development, guided by the lessons I learned in solitude and strengthened by my commitment to education, sobriety, and service.

Honorable Judge Tanner, I know that my actions have left a permanent mark. I cannot undo the harm I caused to society, to my family, and to those I drew into my crime. What I can do is demonstrate, day by day, that I have changed and that I am worthy of the chance to contribute positively in the future.

I am remorseful for the arrogance and selfishness that once defined me. I am grateful for the opportunity—even in confinement—to have grown into a man who values accountability, ethics, and responsibility. I am committed to continuing that growth throughout my sentence and beyond.

As I stand before the Court, I do not ask to escape punishment. I accept that the law requires consequences for my conduct. What I ask is that, in weighing your judgment, you consider the sincerity of my remorse, the transformation I have worked hard to begin, and my pledge to keep building a life of dignity, service, and lawful contribution.

Thank you for considering my words, and for giving me the opportunity to present my commitment to living differently. If you sense that I am a candidate for rehabilitation, I ask that you have mercy on me at sentencing.



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