Guidelines for Writing a Strong Conclusion

1. Look ahead—go beyond the scope of your essay.
   For now, the present system for policing the Internet appears to be working. In the future, though, a more formal, structured procedure may be necessary.

2. Remind readers of the importance of the issue.
   As noted earlier, research shows that the seat-belt law has saved thousands of lives. These lives would almost certainly have been lost had this law not been enacted.

3. Offer a recommendation or make a call to action.
   To convince the local cable company to eliminate pornographic material, subscribers should organize, contact their cable station, and threaten to cancel their service.

4. Mention broader implications of the issue.
   When people consider whether the FBI should be allowed to tap private phone lines, the issue often leads them to the larger issue of First Amendment rights.

5. Conclude with a fact, a quotation, an anecdote, or an example that emphasizes your thesis.
   The next time you want to send an angry e-mail message, consider this fact: your friends and enemies can forward those messages—with unforeseen consequences.

6. Revisit the idea you used to introduce your essay.