Conclusion and Future Directions Section Guide

According to the AP Research rubric, your conclusion and future directions section(s) must:

1. Describe a new understanding pertaining to the topic of inquiry. This new understanding is supported by evidence generated through the chosen research-based method.
2. Describe the limitations of the new understanding due to either the chosen method or the way the method was implemented.
3. Explain the implications to your discipline or community of practice.

Specifically, your conclusion and future directions section(s) must discuss the following elements of your research:

1. Present an argument, conclusion, or new understanding that acknowledges and explains the consequences and implications in context.
2. Explain the limitations of your research as they affect the quality of your findings and ability to effectively answer your research question/hypothesis.
3. Reflect on the process and how this project could affect your field/discipline.
4. Discuss possible next steps for future researchers based on your findings.

To help determine if you are meeting these criteria for this section, ask yourself if you...

1. ...establish and maintain a tone and style that indicates credibility within the discipline of the paper?
2. ...establish and explain, in detail, the limitations of your research? Did you omit any limitations that are relevant and need to be presented?
3. ...tie all past and existing evidence with your new findings to show how current research contributes to the overall body of knowledge?
4. ...provide conclusions that are compelling, considering both tone and presentation of data?
5. ...establish and explain, in detail, the implications of your research?
6. ...provide possible future directions for continuing the present research?