

Drawing Sound Conclusions

What is it? Sometimes writers state their conclusions directly. Other times it is up to you, the reader, to draw conclusions from the reading. A **sound conclusion** is based on solid evidence and your knowledge of the subject.

How to do it. First, read the passage. What facts are given? Looking at these facts together, what do they suggest to you that is not stated in the reading?

Try it. Read the following passage about ancient Greece.

In some city-states, aristocrats—wealthy men who had inherited large pieces of land—insisted that the king should be elected instead of inheriting his crown. Then they said the king could rule only for a certain number of years. Eventually, aristocrats in most city-states overthrew the monarchy. By 800 B.C.E., kings no longer ruled most Greek city-states.

Identify two more facts from the passage. What conclusion could you draw from these facts? How could you test your conclusion to see if it is sound?

Fact	Conclusion
Ancient Greek aristocrats thought the king should be elected instead of inheriting the position.	
Fact	
Fact	