

# Endings

*You don't want your writing to stop abruptly. Give your readers an ending they won't forget. Readers need to feel a sense of closure.*

**Strong Statement:** (close with a statement that forcefully states your opinion)

- Therefore, \_\_\_\_\_.
- Example: Therefore, a criminal, no matter his/her age, should be dealt with according to the crime. The legal system is too lenient when it comes to juvenile offenders. Laws need to be rewritten immediately so that no more dangerous criminals are at large.

**Summary:** (restate the important points in your piece)

- As one can see, \_\_\_\_\_.
- In closing, \_\_\_\_\_.
- All in all, \_\_\_\_\_.
- Example: As one can see, it is not important to know everything, but it is important to know how to find the answer. There will not always be a teacher nearby with the answer. Every person has to learn how to research, how to dig through resources to find what he/she needs to know.

**Moral or Lesson:** (tell what was learned)

- Everyone can agree a lesson was learned because \_\_\_\_\_.
- Example: Everyone can agree a lesson was learned because riding a roller coaster with someone who claims to be a "chicken" is something I will certainly never do again. I should have listened when Sheila told me she did not want to ride it. I should have let her take the "chicken exit." Next time I will know better.

**Mystery:** (close with a statement that shows some things will never be resolved)

- Although I'll never know how \_\_\_\_\_ happened, \_\_\_\_\_.
- At last, \_\_\_\_\_.
- Example: At last, we watched Adam walk down the road until he became just a tiny speck and then disappeared altogether into the dust of twilight. Just as he appeared, he was gone. That was the last time any of us ever saw him again.

**Cliffhanger/Beginning of New Story:** (When writing a personal narrative, you can close with a hint of things to come, or the beginning of a new story – a sequel of sorts.)

- Knowing \_\_\_\_\_, it is/was easy to see that \_\_\_\_\_ will/would happen in the future.
- Example: Knowing he was exhausted, it was easy to see that it had been a long and difficult week. Javier closed his eyes and thought of the many other adventures that would happen in the future.

**Well-Known Quotation:** (close with a quotation that is well known or from a famous person)

- According to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ states, \_\_\_\_\_.
- Example: According to Senator Bob Dole, in order to be a citizen, all Americans must be able to speak English. In theory this seems like a good policy. However, what will become of the citizens who never learn to speak English?

**Open Conclusion:** (close with an ending or statement that lets the reader draw his/her own conclusion)

- Some \_\_\_\_\_. On the other hand, \_\_\_\_\_. Therefore, \_\_\_\_\_.
- Example: Some statistics show that drivers under the age of 16 are more dangerous. On the other hand, some statistics show that they are no more dangerous than drivers 16 to 25. Therefore, whether drivers under than age of 16 are more dangerous than those over 16 is still debatable.