

Grade 6: Narrative Conclusions

Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3.E:

- Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

Welcome

Most writers know that a narrative must have a clear beginning, middle, and end. The end of the story can seem obvious; it marks the end of the events or the action. However, it's important to write not just the end of the story but also a conclusion that effectively closes the story and follows logically from the beginning and the middle. A narrative conclusion also offers writers the chance to explain to their reader the overall meaning of the story. Without a conclusion, the story may end abruptly and leave the reader confused.

Objectives

In this module, students will learn how to:

- provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

Review

Key Terms

- A **conclusion** is a final statement, paragraph, or idea in a narrative essay. It tells what happens at the end of the story and also effectively closes the essay.

Exploring the Standard

Writing narratives allows writers to make a point through storytelling. While the events in the story may be understandable and relatable, readers often look to the conclusion in order to understand the overall meaning. The conclusion can accomplish this in the following three ways:

- by summarizing the narrative.
- by describing how the narrator feels about the experience.
- by showing why the experience matters.

In these ways, readers can relate to the experience and also learn something for themselves.

Watch!

Watch this video as a reminder on how to write and structure personal narratives.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWHc5Yar6Ps>



Read!

Read the following to learn more about writing effective narrative conclusions.

<http://bths.enschool.org/ourpages/auto/2012/9/6/67148450/Personal-Narrative-and-Conclusions.docx>

A Closer Look: Providing a Conclusion That Follows from the Events

In order to effectively summarize the events, describe how the narrator feels, or show why the experience matters, the conclusion needs to follow logically from the story's events. For example, if a student needs to write a narrative that tells a story of an obstacle that he or she needed to overcome, then the conclusion needs to relate to the ideas in the story about overcoming the obstacle. Take a look at the following example. The student decides to write about her experience of overcoming a fear of heights by going to the top of the Empire State Building in New York City while on vacation with her family. Read the following body paragraphs, which describe the series of events that make up the narrative.

Example 1

¹Last summer, my family decided to take a vacation in New York City to explore all the wonderful things the city has to offer. One of the first things my family wanted to do was to take in the whole city view by going to the Observation Deck of the historic and humungous Empire State Building. I knew it was tall, but I didn't know just how tall the building was until we arrived at the front doors. Even then, the building still doesn't look as tall when standing right beneath it, looking up.

²I had been feeling nervous the whole morning leading up to this point because I have a very real fear of heights, and I knew that the Empire State Building is among the tallest in the world. But my family really wanted to see it in person as they heard that you could see the whole city from the Observation Deck on the 102nd floor. By the time we got to the building, I was sweating a lot and feeling queasy.

³The main lobby was really cool with its original 1931 floors, but I couldn't think of anything else but the fear I had about going to the Observation Deck. When we were in front of the elevators, I thought I was going pass out from the fear!

⁴Before the elevator opened, I begged my mom to let me stay in the main lobby since I was so afraid of heights, but she convinced me that it was completely safe and totally worth the effort. The whole way up I could feel us getting higher and higher, but my sister talked to me about how excited she was to see the expanse of the city. And boy was she right! When the elevator doors opened, all we could see were windows on all sides and the incredible view of the city. We saw Central Park, the Hudson and East Rivers, the Brooklyn Bridge, the Statue of Liberty, and an endless grid of streets and other skyscrapers. We saw it all! I instantly forgot about my fear of heights and just stood there, taking in the views.

Although the body paragraphs express a clear beginning, middle, and end, the story is missing a conclusion. In other words, the series of events offers clues about the meaning or point of telling the story, but the meaning is not clearly expressed in the end. To add a conclusion, the student could summarize the events, share how she felt about the events, or explain what the experience taught her.

