



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Last, But Not Least!

Available  
as a PDF at  
[scholastic.com/scope](http://scholastic.com/scope)

When you write an essay, your last words are as important as your first. A strong conclusion will help your whole essay stay with readers. Here are three ways to write great endings.

## A. Make a Lasting Impression

Conclusions may restate your thesis clearly and forcefully, show how your points fit together, and/or give readers something to think about.

**EXAMPLE:** *"If all the women in this town had a vote today, they would elect a mayor at the next election, and they would rise in their might and change the awful state of things now existing here."*

—author Mark Twain's conclusion in a speech arguing women's right to vote, 1901

**YOUR TURN:** Write a conclusion for these points.

1. Women have the same right to vote as men.
2. The current "state of things" is bad.
3. As a political force, women could inspire change for the better.

---



---

## B. Ask, "So what?"

Sometimes, a conclusion answers the question "so what?" This helps readers see the importance of what they just read.

**EXAMPLE: Thesis:** Autumn is my favorite season, but the time speeds by!

**So what?** I vow to make the most of every fall day!

**YOUR TURN:** Write another answer to the question "so what?" for the above thesis.

---



---

## C. Look Ahead

Other types of conclusions include a call to action, a question, or a prediction.

**YOUR TURN:** Complete this conclusion in three different ways:

Because the volunteers overcame so many obstacles to save the dolphins . . .

1. . . . we should \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. . . . isn't it possible that \_\_\_\_\_ ?
3. . . . I predict \_\_\_\_\_ .

USES: COPY MACHINE, OPAQUE PROJECTOR, OR TRANSPARENCY MASTER FOR OVERHEAD PROJECTOR. SCHOLASTIC INC. GRANTS SUBSCRIBERS OF SCHOLASTIC SCOPE PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS PAGE FOR USE IN THEIR CLASSROOMS. COPYRIGHT © 2008 BY SCHOLASTIC INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.