



Narrative Writing

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Week 7

- Writing Warm Up
- Ways to End a Narrative
- Editing and Revising
- Narrative Notebook
- Writing Time





Editing is 30% making improvements
and 70% staring at your work
while making this face.



Warm Up

The Three Little Pigs....But Make it Shakespeare

We're all familiar with the classic tale of The Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf who blew down their houses of sticks and straw but couldn't blow down the house made of bricks. It's time for you to rewrite that story, but with a twist. This time, pick a genre or mood in which to place the story, and write from that time period or perspective.

- * Romance Novel
 - * Shakespeare Play
 - * Broadway Musical
 - * Western/Cowboy
 - * Science Fiction
 - * Infomercial
 - * Horror Story
 - * Murder Mystery
- 
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Ways to End a Narrative

Let's take a look at 7 different ways you can end a narrative piece of writing.



Take Them by Surprise

Agatha Christie, *And Then There Were None*

Ten visitors are trapped on a small island and murdered one by one. As nobody else is on the island, one of them must be the murderer... but who?

One suspect after another is snuffed out, until only one person is left alive, and you'd think the mystery is solved...but it's not. Surprise!

You will have to do without a quote on this one, because publishing the outcome of a murder mystery is just... bad taste; like sticking your finger into somebody else's ice cream. You will have to find out for yourself.



Fade to Black

Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games*

"I take his hand, holding on tightly, preparing for the cameras, and dreading the moment when I will finally have to let go."

After all the trials and ups and downs and twist and turns in this story, the author simply has the main character exit stage left. Of course, there was more yet to come, but sometimes simply bringing down the lights is all that is needed at the time.



Remember a Character

S.E. Hinton, *The Outsiders*

"I sat down and picked up my pen and thought for a moment. Remembering. Remembering a handsome, dark boy with a reckless grin and a hot temper."

The main character, Ponyboy, writes the story about his brothers and friends, so remembering one of the characters who dies isn't a stretch. Taking the time to elaborate that character through elegant word choice, descriptive language, and sensory details helps us picture him in our minds.



Note a Feeling

S.E. Hinton, *The Outsiders*

“Through the pain in my chest, I finally breathed a sigh of relief as I realized that I could finally stay with Soda and Darry.”

Again, the ending of *The Outsiders* provides many good quotes. This one draws upon the feelings of the narrator, Ponyboy, the protagonist whom we follow and from whose point of view we see the story unfold. Having a character recall or reflect through their emotions can bring about those same feelings in the reader, leaving them admiring you as an author.



Get to the Point

S.E. Hinton, *The Outsiders*

"I used to hate the beginning of a new day, but the war had taught me that each new day was a gift."

Third time's a charm? This one shows how the author gets Ponyboy to reflect on a lesson he learned by going through all of the trials and conflict that he went through over the course of the story. It's another good way to end a narrative.



**Rabbits jump and
they live for 8 years**



**Dogs run and they
live for 15 years**



**Turtles do nothing &
they live for 150 years**

**Moral of the story:
Laziness is the key!**



Leave a Cliffhanger

Margaret Mitchell, *Gone With the Wind*

"I'll think of it all tomorrow, at Tara. I can stand it then. Tomorrow, I'll think of some way to get him back. After all, tomorrow is another day."

Anything that comes in a series (Harry Potter) or a trilogy (Hunger Games) has a reputation for leaving readers with cliffhangers at the end. There are problems that still aren't solved, more danger is brewing somewhere, and the reader is left to wait until the next book is available.

Other times, like in the classic tale above, readers are left to envision what that sequel would look like, how the revenge plot would unfold, or what questions are still to be answered. Just don't leave readers too unsatisfied.



Begin Again

S.E. Hinton, *The Outsiders*


“When I stepped out into the bright sunlight from the darkness of the movie house, I had only two things on my mind: Paul Newman and a ride home.”

Just when you thought we were done with *The Outsiders*, we're back again. Because that's what this book does. The very last sentence and the very first sentence in the book are, in fact, the exact same. Here, the main character turns out to be the narrator and “author” of the story we just finished reading. For you, having your readers come full circle within your narrative to end up right where they started is another way to finish your tale.



Revising & Editing

Revising your writing with



Add
Remove
Move
S

Editing your writing with



C Capitalization
U Usage
P Punctuation
S

Revising & Editing Tools

Certain online free and paid programs, Google add-ons, and apps can help you revise and edit your work.

Hemingway App

Expresso App

Grammarly

The screenshot shows the Hemingway App interface. The main text area contains a paragraph about the app's features, with some sentences highlighted in yellow and red. To the right, there is a sidebar with the following information:

- Hemingway**
- Readability**
- Grade 6
- Good
- Words: 133
- Show Stats

Below the sidebar, there are several colored boxes with tips:

- Adverbs:** meeting the goal of 2 or fewer.
- Use of passive voice:** meeting the goal of 2 or fewer.
- Phrase has a simpler alternative.**
- 1 of 11 sentences is hard to read.**
- 1 of 11 sentences is very hard to read.**

The screenshot shows the Expresso Writing App interface. The main text area contains a paragraph about a disaster, with some words highlighted in green and red. To the right, there is a sidebar with the following information:

- EXPRESSO**
- Writing App**
- A TOOL FOR STUDENT-LED REVISION**

Below the sidebar, there is a table with editing metrics:

Metrics for editing	
synonyms	41.7%
weak verbs	0.8%
filler words	1.2%
nominalizations	36%
cutty substitutions	0.62
negations per sentence	0%
clashed nouns	0%
long noun phrases	0.08
passive voice per	0.08

Narrative Notebook

Ending a Narrative

What were some of the ways to end a narrative?

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Let's take a look at our packet.

Today we are going to complete pages 24-26.

You can refer back to the [Revising Video](#) and [Editing Video](#) to help you.

Then, it's time for you to work on writing your own personal narrative. Use this time to write about anything you like, from a family vacation to your favorite sport or the first time you got your dog.

Or, you can choose to go back to any other piece of writing and revise, extend, rework, or edit.

Here are links to a blank copy and the answer key.

[Narrative Notebook](#)
[Answer Key](#)

Writing Time

Use this time for personal writing or journaling.

If you are stuck for ideas, try these:

- * [Picture Prompts](#)
- * [Story Starters](#)
- * [Writing Ideas](#)
- * [Plot Generator](#)
- * [Plot Generator](#)
- * [Story Plot Generator](#)
- * [Story Line Generator](#)



You may write with paper and pencil or open your own document program (Word, Google Docs, etc.) on your device.

Spin the wheels to plan a story...



Adjective 1



Character 1



Verb



Adjective 2



Character 2



Deranged puppets kidnap a hairy grandma.