

6th Grade Narrative Essay: Climax and Conclusion

The **climax** of the essay is the highest point of tension in the story. It is where the readers are the most enthralled by the action.

Ask Yourself:

- An effective climax brings the story to a satisfying peak. It is what the conflicts have been building toward.
 - The way a climax is presented should be logical and feel like a natural part of the plot.
 - The climax should tell clearly how the characters continue the conflict and give the audience an answer to the main conflict. Other conflicts can be resolved in the conclusion.

The **conclusion** is the final section of a narrative (or story). It is where the readers find out what happens to the characters. The plot winds down, and the main character's conflict is resolved in the falling action. The ending of a narrative is called the resolution. In some stories, the narrator or a character leaves readers with a final lesson about life or human experience. More often, however, readers have to figure out the theme on their own by drawing inferences from the end of the story.

Ask Yourself:

- An effective ending brings the story to a satisfying close. It follows from the story's events, resolves the conflict, ties up loose ends, and may hint at what happens to the characters when the story is over.
 - The way a problem is resolved (the resolution) should be logical and feel like a natural part of the plot, but it can still be a surprise.
 - The resolution should tell clearly how the characters resolved the conflict (or problem)—or how it was resolved for them.
- The conclusion might also include a memorable comment from the narrator or a character that helps readers understand the theme—the larger lesson about life or human experience that the story conveyed.

Your Turn

Write a climax and an ending for your fictional story. The climax should be the highest point of tension or the part with largest conflict. The falling action and resolution should let your readers know how the main character (or characters) resolved the other conflicts (or problems).

Your ending might also hint at what happens to the character after the story is over. In your conclusion (or ending), try to include a thoughtful statement about life or human experience. Your message might be something that the narrator or a character says, or it might be an inference about the theme that the reader can draw from specific evidence in the text.

Climax	
Falling Action	
Resolution	

Have you clearly demonstrated the theme in these paragraphs?