

Journalism/Creative Writing Extended Project Fiction Track

Step Five: Endings

Your initial stage of planning is just about over. The last thing we need to do is make sure you've got a solid ending. You may have already decided how your story will end, but if you haven't, hopefully this list of potential endings will help guide your thinking.

Potential Endings:

The Circle Ending: A story that does a full circle and comes back to the beginning

The Moral Ending: An ending where you learn a lesson and see a character develop. You see the character's growth and how far they've come.

The Surprise Ending: A big plot twist last minute that takes us to a place we least expected.

The Reflection Ending: The character looks back on their past achievements and experiences

The Emotional Ending: Leave your readers feeling sad, bittersweet, or happy for the characters in the story

The Cliffhanger Ending: End on something that will leave your readers at the edge of their seat

The Humor Ending: Finish in a funny or humorous way, like leaving the reader laughing at a line or an inside joke to the story

The Question Ending: Make the reader wonder what will happen next

The Image Ending: is an ending that puts the "show, don't tell" rule to good use and describes a scene

The Dialogue Ending: Finish with a quote/dialogue from one of your characters (it's important/telling who gets the "last word" in a story)

Once you've decided how you are wanting to end your story, make sure it's included in your outline.