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**Writing**

**a**

**FINAL THOUGHT**

**“The end must connect with the opening. What has been promised must have been delivered. Read the opening over to see what closing it implies.”**

--Donald Murray

**FINAL THOUGHT:** After writing an essay, be sure to end with a strong conclusion. That conclusion should restate your thesis statement in a new way and finish off with a final thought. Remember, the last words you write are the most likely to be remembered. Therefore, these final words should be creative and memorable.

In this packet, you will discover a variety of possible final thought strategies and examples of each. This is by no means an exhaustive list. Please feel free to develop your own final thought strategies.

**Please Note:** More than one final thought strategy can be used together to create a complete final thought in one essay!

**FINAL THOUGHT STRATEGIES**

* **End with a thought-provoking question or a short series of questions** (and answers)
* **End with a prediction***– an insight into how the future might be different, better, or worse*
* **End with a recommendation** - *stating what should be done about the problem or situation*
* **End with an admonition (warning) or instruction** – *what the reader can do about the issue*
* **End with a strong, punched statement –** *perhaps just one strong sentence*
* **End with an anecdote** *– a brief story that reiterates the essence of the issue or situation; should be connected to your attention getter anecdote*
* **End with a rhetorical question** *– leave the reader thinking*

**EXAMPLES**

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***End with a strong, punched statement***

Animal cruelty in all of it forms - cruelty, neglect, and abandonment, must be stopped. **If people stopped to think before acquiring pets, there would be fewer instances of cruelty to animals. Many times, it is the people who adopt pets without considering the expense and responsibility involved who mistreat and neglect their animals. Pets are living creatures. They do not deserve to be acquired as carelessly as one would acquire a stuffed toy.**

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***End with a recommendation*** *(suggests what should be done about a situation or problem)*

Stereotypes such as the helpless homemaker, harried executive, and absent-minded grandparent are insulting enough to begin with. Placed in magazine ads or television commercials, they become even more insulting. Now these unfortunate characters are not just being laughed at; they are being turned into hucksters to sell products to an unsuspecting public. **Consumers should boycott companies whose advertising continues to use such stereotypes.**

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***End with a recommendation  
End with a rhetorical question***

There aren’t many ways to make going to Regal Theaters cheaper, but to cut the cost, **movie-goers can stick to matinees and resist buying anything to eat or drink. Waiting for a film to be released on video and renting videos are also cheaper. If everyone started taking small steps like these, monopolies like Regal Theaters would start losing their power and begin to rethink their prices. And maybe families could enjoy a Saturday night together at the movies. Wouldn’t that be a welcome change?**

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***End with an admonition or instruction***

Reading is essential to our society as a whole in order to grow children who are literate, adults with compassion for others, and businesses who honor customers. **If you are a teacher who has students who don't like to read, give them access to good books and time to read and talk about them. Don’t assign books, and never give prizes for reading.**

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***End with a thought-provoking question   
End with a prediction***

Since people are living longer, we’re learning more healthy ways to eat and live, and the baby boom generation is growing old, the dynamics of the world are changing. **What, then, will happen in the twenty-first century when most of the population will be over sixty years old? Retirement policies could change dramatically, with the age-sixty-five testimonial dinner and gold watch postponed for five or ten years. Even television would change as the Geritol generation replaces the Pepsi generation. Glamorous gray-haired models would sell everything from toilet paper to televisions. New soap operas and situation comedies would reveal the secrets of the “sunset years.” It will be a different world indeed when the young finally find themselves outnumbered.**

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***End with an anecdote***

Not just everyone should have the right to be a parent, but only those who can earn a license by proving their responsibility, their financial stability, and their ability to care for a child. **So instead of seeing children abandoned and neglected, we would see children raised like I was. I was the beloved only child of a two-parent family. My mother stayed home to nurture me, and my father worked hard to support us. Instead of being left on the door step of the church, we attended church as a whole and capable family, raising a whole and capable child.**

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***End with a recommendation  
End with a strong, punched statement***

Cigarette companies have targeted teens to begin smoking. They have created ads to entice teens to the “cool” factor of smoking. They have created packaging that attracts teens. Finally, they have added advertising promotions to draw in teen customers. **Let’s stop allowing cigarette companies to win this battle. Let’s insist on and tell the truth about cigarettes: they create an addiction; they damage your body; and, they ruin your life.**