

Ways to Start a Narrative

(Create the Interactive Notebook for this information.)

Where?

When?

Action?

Fairy Tale Style (Setting)

Introduce a Character

Dialogue

Use Transitions

Use transition words from your Interactive Notebook to indicate a change in scene, time, or to help the reader follow the plot.

Words that can be used to show **location**:

above	behind	by	near	throughout
across	below	down	off	to the right
against	beneath	in back of	onto	under
along	beside	in front of	on top of	
among	between	inside	outside	
around	beyond	into	over	

Words that can be used to show **time**:

while	first	meanwhile	soon	then
after	second	today	later	next
at	third	tomorrow	afterward	as soon as
before	now	next week	about	when suddenly
during	until	yesterday	finally	

Word that can be used to **compare two things**:

likewise	also	while	in the same way
like	as	similarly	

Words that can be used to **contrast two things**:

but	still	although	on the other hand
however	yet	otherwise	even though

Words that can be used to **emphasize a point**:

again	truly	especially	for this reason
to repeat	in fact	to emphasize	

Words that can be used to **conclude or summarize**:

finally	as a result	to sum up	in conclusion
lastly	therefore	all in all	because

Words that can be used to **add information**:

again	another	for instance	for example
also	and	moreover	additionally
as well	besides	along with	other
next	finally	in addition	

Words that can be used to **clarify**:

that is	for instance	in other words
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<http://jc-schools.net/write/transition.htm>

Create a Meaningful Conclusion

The conclusion must wrap up the story and include what you learned or realized from this experience. It should be the logical ending to the story and be about three sentences long. Never end a paper by saying “The End!” If the reader cannot tell that the story is at an end, you need to rewrite the conclusion.

Example of introduction and conclusion that connect from beginning to end:

My family was on our way home from Connecticut, and we were just at the point of the trip where our legs were getting cramps and we were about to kill each other from irritation. Mom and Dad decided it was a good time to take a detour to Philadelphia. I was at the point of the trip where I just wanted to get home, and almost grudgingly got out of the car. Now, however, I am sure glad I did.

I realized that the world is not just different countries; the world is a family. As a famous man once said, “There are no strangers in the world: only friends we haven’t met.” What does this have to do with the Liberty Bell? Well, there we were with people from across the nation and across the world, celebrating something together—just like a family. As I walked out the door of the building, I changed my view of people from “strangers” to people who are waiting for a first chance.

Every conclusion must have a lesson learned (THEME), but the following is a list of strategies to make the conclusion have punch:

1. Use a **parallel structure** in the lesson learned. Example: I have learned that life is not necessarily a box that can be closed, a bow that can be tied, or a phone that can be answered.
2. Use a **metaphor** in the lesson learned. Example: Evil is a dying child in the arms of its mother. It just doesn't make sense. And life, I've learned, is often like that.
3. End with **dialogue** that connects to dialogue from the beginning. Example: I remember back to when the doctor said I'd never live longer than three months. The doctor now says, “You are completely cured.”

4. **Answer a question** posed at the beginning. Example: Beginning- How would I survive this situation? End- I now know that I can survive whatever life throws at me. I am stronger, more dependent, and willing to take it on.
5. **Project time forward** to end a narrative essay. If the narrative took place ten years ago, you might write the conclusion from the perspective of your older and wiser self who understands more now than you did then.