The Last Word

Study how a conclusion brings an argument together without overclaiming.

11-12.W.2.f "Craft an effective conclusion."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In the final paragraph, underline the sentence that reframes the proposal and circle a phrase that acknowledges a limit. Number the last two sentences to trace how the ending moves from a next step to a larger idea.

One More Hour at the Library

1 At 3:15, the school library closes just as some students begin to work. A student waiting for a ride may have nowhere quiet to read, while another may need a table for a group project. Keeping the library open for one extra hour on Tuesdays would give these students a dependable place to work. The proposal is modest: it does not require a new room or an everyday schedule change. It asks the school to use a space it already has for a little longer, when that space could matter most.

2 An extra hour would be useful only if the plan fits the people who make it possible. The school would need to arrange staff supervision, rather than assuming a librarian can stay late without support. Students who ride the bus could not all use the hour, so the schedule should not replace study time during the regular day. A short trial, with attendance tracked and feedback from staff and students, could show whether Tuesdays are the right choice. These limits do not erase the idea's value; they give the school a way to test it fairly.

3 The question, then, is not whether one late library hour will solve every student's study problem. It is whether the school can make a useful space available at a time when some students need it, without shifting an unfair burden onto staff or leaving bus riders behind. A Tuesday trial answers that question more responsibly than either a permanent promise or an immediate refusal. If the school treats the hour as an experiment and protects existing daytime access, it can learn what students actually use. Sometimes a small schedule change is also a way to listen.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which sentence in the final paragraph reframes the proposal as a question of access and fairness? How does that shift strengthen the conclusion?

2. How does the conclusion bring together the benefit in paragraph 1 and the concerns in paragraph 2 without claiming the plan will solve every study problem?

3. Why does the conclusion favor a Tuesday trial over a permanent promise or an immediate refusal? Use one detail from paragraph 2 to support your answer.

4. What larger idea does the final sentence leave readers with, and how does the sentence before it prepare for that idea?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine an essay argues that your school should set aside five minutes each Friday for student announcements about club meetings, but time in the school day is limited. Write a 4- to 6-sentence conclusion that brings together the benefit and the scheduling concern, proposes a realistic next step, and ends with a larger idea without adding new evidence.

ANSWER KEY

The Last Word

HIGH SCHOOL · 11-12.W.2.f

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In the final paragraph, underline the sentence that reframes the proposal and circle a phrase that acknowledges a limit. Number the last two sentences to trace how the ending moves from a next step to a larger idea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which sentence in the final paragraph reframes the proposal as a question of access and fairness? How does that shift strengthen the conclusion?	**The second sentence asks whether the school can offer the space without burdening staff or leaving bus riders behind. It makes the proposal more credible by weighing its benefit against its limits.**
2	How does the conclusion bring together the benefit in paragraph 1 and the concerns in paragraph 2 without claiming the plan will solve every study problem?	**It returns to the value of an available workspace while naming staff workload and bus riders' access. It presents the hour as a limited trial, not a complete solution.**
3	Why does the conclusion favor a Tuesday trial over a permanent promise or an immediate refusal? Use one detail from paragraph 2 to support your answer.	**A trial lets the school test the idea before committing to it or rejecting it. Paragraph 2 proposes tracking attendance and gathering feedback to see whether Tuesdays work.**
4	What larger idea does the final sentence leave readers with, and how does the sentence before it prepare for that idea?	**The final sentence suggests that changing a schedule can help a school listen to students. The preceding sentence prepares for this idea by proposing an experiment that reveals how students use the library.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Five minutes on Friday could make club opportunities easier to find, but even a short announcement takes time from a crowded school day. That tradeoff deserves attention rather than dismissal. The school could test a brief, clearly timed segment before making it routine. If the segment helps students hear about clubs without disrupting other priorities, it may be worth keeping. Making room for student voices begins with deciding how to use shared time thoughtfully.

Accept answers that identify the conclusion's specific moves and explain their effect using the passage. For Part 3, look for a fresh synthesis, a practical next step, and a final implication rather than a new claim of evidence.