

Last Line Best Practices

This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:

[Everything You Need to Know About Writing Endings](#)

Choose the perfect ending.

Select one of the six types of endings for your novel:

- The Perfect Loop
- The Surprise Ending
- The Moral of the Story
- The Cliffhanger
- The Happily Ever After
- The Vagueness of It All

Edit with the ending in mind.

Don't worry too much about the ending during your first draft. During the second draft and so on, use your raw material to shape the best ending for your novel.

Carry the same tone of your novel to your final sentence.

Your ending should perfectly capture the rhythm, the voice, and the tone of the rest of your novel.

Let the characters live on.

Beyond your ending, the characters you've created continue to live in the world you've created. Make sure to honor this truth in your writing of the ending. There should be a sense that the characters will continue to live on.

Cut the fat.

Edit out all unnecessary words in your last line. Try to tie it up as simply as possible.

Offer a profound universal truth.

Give the reader new insight on life or the human condition.