

LC Essay Sentence Outline – Concluding Paragraph

1) Restate the main idea; 2) Describe how the character has changed; 3) Discuss the theme of the story.

Example for Scrooge from *A Christmas Carol*:

- V. A. During the story, Scrooge changes from a cold, heartless man to someone who cares about others.**
- B. 1. He says “Merry Christmas” to the people he passes on the street.**
- 2. He goes to church and pats children on the head.**
- 3. He also treats Bob Cratchit better.**
- a. Scrooge starts by purchasing a huge turkey for the Cratchits’ Christmas dinner.**
- b. Then Scrooge gives Bob a raise and lets him buy some more coal to heat the office.**
- 4. In addition, Scrooge endeavors to help the poor.**

- a. **He makes a surprisingly large donation to charity.**
- b. **He gives handouts to the beggars on the street.**

C. Dickens is trying to show us that it's important to keep the spirit of Christmas in our hearts all through the year.

- 1. We need to be open to our friends, families, and co-workers.**
- 2. We need to be as thoughtful and generous to others as we possibly can.**
- 3. What matters most in life is not our material possessions, but the love that we give to others and that we allow others to give us in return.**

During the story, Scrooge changes from a cold, heartless man to someone who cares about others. For example, he says “Merry Christmas” to the people he passes on the street, and he goes to church and pats children on the head. He also treats Bob Cratchit better. Scrooge starts by purchasing a huge turkey for the Cratchits’ Christmas dinner. Then Scrooge gives Bob a raise and lets him buy some more coal to heat the office. In addition, Scrooge endeavors to help the poor. He makes a surprisingly large donation to charity, and he gives handouts to the beggars on the street. Dickens is trying to show us that it’s important to keep the spirit of Christmas in our hearts all through the year by being open to our friends, families, and co-workers, and by being as thoughtful and generous to others as we possibly can. What matters most in life is not our material possessions, but the love that we give to others and that we allow others to give us in return.

Example for Maijue from “An Unforgettable Journey”

- V. A. When Maijue ends her story, we learn that she has changed from a small, frightened girl to a young woman who has become educated and confident.**
- B. After her family finally arrives in the United States, she must make many changes and get used to an entirely new way of life.**
- 1. She struggles with school and things we take for granted**
 - a. She sees a blond-haired person for the first time.**
 - b. She has to learn how to hold a crayon.**
 - c. She has to do all her school work without the help of her parents.**
 - 2. However, her strength and determination to pursue an education help her to adapt and find success in her new country.**

3. In fact, she becomes the first person in her family to go to college.

C. Through her story, the author helps us see that even though we may lose family members and face extremely harsh conditions in our lives, we have the ability to rise above those hardships and make our lives better if we work hard and persevere.

Some phrases you can use to introduce the theme:

- *The author is trying to show us . . .*
- *Through the story we discover . . .*
- *The author is trying to help us see that . . .*
- *Through the character we learn . . .*

When Maijue ends her story, we learn that she has changed from a small frightened girl to a young woman who has become educated and confident. After her family finally arrives in the United States, she must make many changes and get used to an entirely new way of life. She struggles with school and things we take for granted, such as such as seeing a blond-haired person for the first time and learning how to hold a crayon. In addition, she has to do all her school work without any help from her parents. However, Maijue's strength and determination to pursue an education help her to adapt and find success in her new country. In fact, she becomes the first person in her family to go to college. *Through her story, the author helps us see that even though we may lose family members and face extremely harsh conditions in our lives, we have the ability to rise above those hardships and make our lives better if we work hard and persevere.*