

## CONCLUSIONS

The conclusion, or the big finale, is just as important as the introduction. It should be dramatic, emphasized and a "grabber." You should never skip, smooth-over, or slight a conclusion. After spending 2 3/4 hours in your class, you and your students deserve a grandiose ending.

Conclusions, just as the introductions, should be well thought-out and organized. Be well prepared and professional. While the introduction entices them into the class, the conclusion ties the whole class together. It's the final impression of class, the last thing they hear and the beginning of what they will be thinking about the class when they leave.

Keep in mind the following:

1. **PLAN TIME FOR A CONCLUSION.**  
Great conclusions don't just happen. They're planned, starting with leaving sufficient time before the end of class for a complete conclusion.
2. **REVIEW THE ENTIRE CLASS.**  
Class has probably just completed a great activity. That's what is foremost in everyone's mind. What has happened in the entire class? Stir up memories to set the stage for a conclusion.
3. **TIE IN THE CONCEPTS.**  
Everything you did in class was for a purpose, show that purpose in the conclusion. Process information rather than just having students regurgitate it.
4. **MAKE IT PERSONAL TO THEM.**  
Help them figure out how this class effects of is affected by their daily life. Explore pertinence, not only at Wolf Ridge, but at home and around the world. For example, how can they conserve water at home after Stream Study class?
5. **EMPOWER THE STUDENTS.**  
Bring in current events and time. What was it like in the past? What's happening now? What CAN it be like in the future? Your students should feel the power they have as they make everyday choices. They should effect their world through love and caring, not guilt.
6. **INVOLVE THE STUDENTS.**  
As a teacher, you need students' input to evaluate their understanding and progress. Let the students do some of the talking, share insights and stories, hopes and dreams.

### SEMINAR OUTLINE

1. Do "guided imagery" about a class, a particularly successful class conducted recently. This is a bit "touchy-feely" for some folks but relaxes and focuses the group.
2. On a large sheet brainstorm conclusion components.
3. Get into diads - discuss for one minute each of the following:  
\*an effective conclusion you've experienced  
\*a vision for your conclusions...Where do you want to be?  
\*set one goal to work on a conclusion
4. Extension: Plan, execute, report on one conclusion this week.
5. Post brainstorm list in office for all to see/remember