

GRADE 5 LEARNING PACK

The Last Paragraph First

Understand evidence-led research and balanced conclusions.

LEARN • PRACTISE • CREATE • REFLECT

Original BrightPencil Kids resource - adult-led where appropriate

A4 edition • 12 purposeful pages • review copy

Print. Learn. Grow.

Grown-up guide

Learning objective

Understand evidence-led research and balanced conclusions.

Use this pack well

- Model the first example aloud, then let the learner try.
- Ask “How do you know?” more often than “Are you finished?”.
- Use real objects, talk, movement or observation when the activity suggests it.
- Stop or shorten the session if attention or enjoyment drops.
- Open-ended pages can have many successful answers.

Quality note

This resource was written originally for BrightPencil Kids. Curriculum sources informed scope and progression only; no third-party worksheet or story text is reproduced.

Read the story

PART 1

Tara had to write a report about a fictional coastal town. She began by drafting a dramatic conclusion before gathering evidence because she already knew what she wanted to say.

PART 2

Her sources later showed a more complicated picture: tourism created jobs and pressure on housing; conservation rules protected habitats but limited some development; transport needs varied by season.

PART 3

Instead of forcing the evidence into her original conclusion, Tara deleted the paragraph and grouped her notes by issue.

PART 4

She wrote a new conclusion after the evidence section, including one benefit, one challenge and one unanswered question.

PART 5

Her teacher wrote, 'A conclusion should be the result of inquiry, not a destination chosen before the journey begins.'

Summarise the problem in no more than three sentences.

Identify the turning point where the character changes method or interpretation.

Match each inference to the strongest story evidence.

Write an alternative choice and predict a plausible consequence.

Explain the transferable strategy from the story in your own words.

Try it beyond the page

Real-world / hands-on connection

Retell the reasoning problem to a trusted adult and explain which evidence mattered most.

Before you finish

What did you notice?

What evidence, object or example helped you?

What would you change if you tried again?

Create something

Your project

Create a one-page response: key evidence, inference, strategy learned and a new scenario where it could help.

Use this space for planning, drawing, mapping, designing or notes.

CHALLENGE

Think deeper

1. What was Tara's first research mistake?

2. What did the evidence show?

3. How did she improve the conclusion?

Quick review

1. In one sentence, explain the big idea of “The Last Paragraph First”.

2. Draw or write one example that shows you understand.

3. Choose one activity from this pack and explain the strategy you used.

4. Write one question you still have.

Answer & discussion notes

Use these as guidance, not scripts. Open questions can have different successful responses when the reasoning is sensible and evidence-based.

1. Suggested response

She decided the conclusion before gathering evidence.

2. Suggested response

The issue involved several benefits, pressures and trade-offs.

3. Suggested response

She wrote it after organising evidence and included limits.

Review before publication

Check age fit, factual accuracy, clarity, accessibility, rights provenance and whether the activity works in practice. This file remains a review copy until those checks are signed off.

FINISH

My learning reflection

I finished this BrightPencil learning pack.

One thing I understand better now:

A strategy that helped me:

Something I created or noticed:

My next small question or goal:

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