

Appendix IV.1.20
Endings

The End

I) Read pages 125-130 (Hatcher)

II) When crafting your ending, incorporate each of **Aristotle's elements** (character, action, ideas, language, music & spectacle). How does Shakespeare use each of these elements in *Macbeth*? *Identify each one on paper right now.* You will be turning this in along with your first draft on Wednesday.

III) The ending must be **surprising & inevitable**. What is the ending of *Macbeth*? How does it fit these criteria? Is your ending surprising & inevitable? How? Write the answer on the back of your paper

IV) At the same time, the **ending must:**

- Answer the central dramatic questions
- Answer any minor dramatic questions
- Provide a major action for the central character(s) to perform
- Resolve the conflict
- Underline the ideas of the play

Some minor dramatic questions may remain at the end of a play. There is room for ambiguity, but never confusion.

The Great End of your play will be most successful if it grows organically from the Great Beginning and the Great Middle. If, however, you are stumped by your ending, go back again to the work you've done on the earlier parts of the play. The chances are the flaw lies there. Don't settle for the first climax that comes to mind. Choose the climax that best underlines the ideas of the play. Choose the climax that best exhibits your characters under pressure. Choose the climax that is both inevitable and contains elements of surprise. Make sure the climax activates all six of Aristotle's elements.

When writing your final beginning, answer the following questions:

1. What is the meaning derived from this climax?
2. What are the last ten lines of dialogue?
3. What is the last image of the play?

Turn in the answers to these questions along with the 6 elements of Aristotle along with your first draft.