Name: _____ **Tool B4-27a**

Conclusions

Animal Tails

Animal tails have many uses. Beavers and penguins use their tails to swim. Their tails help them steer in the water. Other animals use their tails like an extra arm. Many monkeys can even hang by their tails. Some animals use their tails to tell how they are feeling. Cats wave their tails if they are angry, for example. Dogs sometimes wag them when they are happy. Animals use their tails in different ways.

Our National Anthem

Our country has a special song called "The Star-Spangled Banner." Americans sing it together. We sing it before special events, like football games. We show respect when the song starts. We stand up. We take off our hats. We look at the American flag. Some people salute. Others put their hands over their hearts. The "Star-Spangled Banner" is a special song we sing together.

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Conclusions

The Metric System

The metric system is one way that people measure things. It is used to measure things like height, weight, and distance. The metric system uses measurements like grams and meters. It is used in countries all over the world. Today, there are only three countries that do not use the metric system. These countries are Myanmar, Liberia, and the United States. Most other parts of the world use the metric system as a way to measure.

Squirrels Need to Learn Skills

A mother squirrel teaches her babies many skills before she sends them out on their own. The mother shows her babies how to find food. She teaches them to use their noses to find nuts and seeds. When the babies are old enough, the mother lets them start climbing. Sometimes the babies try to go where they shouldn't. The mother makes noises to get them back. After the baby squirrels learn all these skills, they can head out on their own.

Works Cited: Bower, Lois. "Squirrel School." *Highlights for Children*, Apr. 2002: 22. The Free Library. Web. 8 May 2014.

Villarreal, Ryan. "America, Liberia, Myanmar: The Anti-Metric System Holdouts." *International Business Times*. IBT Media Inc., 2 Mar. 2013. Web. 27 Mar. 2014.

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The Metric System

Metric measurements have gradually been accepted for use in science and commerce around the world. The metric system has provided uniformity in unit measurement that allows research labs and businesses to accurately communicate crucial information across language and cultural differences. Today, only three countries—Myanmar (Burma), Liberia, and the United States—have not adopted the standard metric system as their official system of measurement. **Even in those countries, however, grams, liters, and meters are the base units used in the vast majority of laboratories, factories, and classrooms.**

Nellie Bly

Nellie Bly gained international fame for her dramatic journalistic feats, such as posing as a mentally ill patient, and especially for her 1889 journey around the globe. But she also had a gift for getting the behind-the-scenes story, whether from a war zone or on the picket lines of a violent labor strike. Her guts and resolve earned her grudging respect from the male-dominated newsrooms of the era. When she died in 1922, her former New York newspaper wrote: "Nellie Bly was THE BEST REPORTER IN AMERICA and that is saying a good deal."

Work Cited: McCollum, Sean. "Nellie Bly: Daredevil Reporter." *Junior Scholastic.* Scholastic, Inc., n.d. 3 Jan. 2014.

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Conclusions—Terms and Definitions

Purpose of a Conclusion

A **conclusion** in informative/explanatory writing follows from and supports the ideas presented. A conclusion should:

- Summarize and tie together the most important information from the writing
- Address the significance or importance of the topic
- Avoid introducing a new topic
- Avoid making statements that are not supported by the information in the writing

Types of Conclusions

There are many types of conclusions that writers use to bring their writing to a close and address the significance of the topic.

Type	Example Conclusion
A **formal conclusion** summarizes the information and reminds readers what is *most* important about the topic.	Soviet leader Joseph Stalin proved an effective ally for the United States in defeating Nazi Germany in World War II. But in judging his career and life, it is also important to recall what a ruthless dictator Stalin was, a dictator whose policies resulted in the deaths of millions of his own citizens.
A **clincher** summarizes the information and helps readers understand the real-world consequences or benefits of the topic.	Many American schools still lack access to high-speed Internet, but the programs that are in place to add technology to these classrooms will have far-reaching effects. The students of these schools will become tomorrow's healthcare professionals, engineers, and teachers. Their technology skills will ultimately impact their larger communities.
A **closing statement** summarizes the information and makes a statement about the future of the topic (research that needs to be done, questions that still need to be answered, etc.).	The importance of early childhood education programs like Head Start has become clear to researchers. Now the spotlight is shifting to the funding for these programs. Going forward, leaders acknowledge that they will need to find ways to invest more money in early education programs, or many students will continue to enter kindergarten unprepared.