

## Suggested Revision of Essay Conclusion

The following responds to the Practice activity presented on pages 361-62 of *Acting on Words*.

### Sample essay conclusion

To conclude, self-employment is thus far more difficult and riskier than one would think sometimes. The problem of small resources makes competition with corporations tough. A new study claims governments do not take individual small business seriously until after five years. Making and maintaining business networks is also difficult, since most of your time is usually spent completing what work or contracts you have already. Even the problems of insurance and benefits are worrisome. Therefore, despite a self-employed person's being his or her own boss and taking lunch breaks whenever, there are reasons why 70 percent of first-year businesses fail and many people falsify tax claims and don't give much time or money to charities anymore.

### Revised essay conclusion

Self-employment is thus far more difficult and riskier than one would think. Small resources make competition with corporations difficult. Making contacts and maintaining business networks are also difficult, since time is usually spent completing work or contracts under way. Even the problems of insurance and benefits are worrisome. Therefore, despite the attractive independence of self-employment, there are reasons why 70 percent of first-year businesses fail. Many of these failures are linked to the obstacles facing self-employment.

### Commentary

Your essay conclusion is a place where conciseness really needs to be applied. As you can see, the revised version is more concise than the original. It uses precise, summarizing diction rather than description of an episode or episodes. It avoids new, distracting information (e.g. the claims of the new study). Similarly, it avoids other last-

minute assertions that have not been earned in the previous discussion (e.g. people who falsify on tax returns and eschew charities). The goal of an essay conclusion is to drive home the controlling idea of the essay (presumably the idea that self-employment is more difficult and riskier than one would think) and briskly reinforce the reasons for that view.