



THE WRITING ACADEMY, LLC®



Module 2

Writing a Thesis (Central Idea)



Grade 3 • Cluster 1

Tackling TEKS 3.12B — Reading & Writing



★ Meet Our Week!

Module Slide 1 • Module 2

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- Find the TOPIC and CHARGE.
- Think of my ANSWER from the passage.
- Match my sentence to WHAT, WHY, or HOW.
- Write a thesis that answers the prompt.

I Can...

- Name the Three Pieces: TOPIC, CHARGE, ANSWER.
- Tell which pieces come from the prompt.
- Write a thesis that fits the prompt's job.
- **Explain to a partner** why it fits.

★ The Mystery Door Sort

Day 1 • Gather

WHAT

Door 1

WHY

Door 2

RELATIONAL HOW

Door 3

Listen to each prompt and move to the mystery door it belongs behind — smart writers study the kind of question first!

★ Three Pieces to a Thesis

Day 1 • Reveal



TOPIC • CHARGE • ANSWER

The TOPIC and CHARGE come from the prompt. The ANSWER comes from the writer.

Every thesis (central idea) is built from these Three Pieces!

★ Prompt Type = Thesis Type

Day 1 • Reveal (cont.)

WHAT

Simple sentence with facts or details.

WHY

Complex sentence with *because* and reasons.

RELATIONAL HOW

Simple sentence with a preposition showing ways or connections.

★ Watch Me Build It!

Day 1 • Reveal (cont.)

TOPIC Pilgrims / Plymouth

CHARGE choose

ANSWER fresh water, land for crops,
trees, a harbor

Prompt: Why did the Pilgrims choose Plymouth?

This is a WHY prompt, so I write a complex sentence with *because*: "The Pilgrims chose Plymouth **because** it had fresh water, land for crops, trees for building, and a safe harbor."

★ Spin, Build, and Move!

Day 2 • Attempt

How to Play

1. Spin the spinner (WHAT / WHY / HOW).
2. Draw a matching prompt card.
3. Find the TOPIC, CHARGE, ANSWER together.
4. Build the correct thesis sentence.

With Your Team...

Choose your **Pencil Guy** marker. If your thesis is correct, move your Pencil Guy forward one space on the gameboard!

★ Let's Talk About It!

Day 3 • Discuss

What are the Three Pieces to a Thesis?

Student Directions

"Tell your partner what kind of thesis each prompt type needs."

WHAT → facts/details

WHY → because + reasons

HOW → ways/connections

★ Right Idea, Wrong Sentence?

Day 3 • Discuss (cont.)

"What if my thesis has the right idea but the wrong sentence type?"

Your thinking is on the right track — now strengthen your writing HABIT by matching the sentence structure to the prompt.

≡ Label It, Build It, Write It!

Day 3 • Use (Independent Practice) — Interactive Notebook

1

What made Plymouth a safe and useful place for settlement?

2

Why did ancient Egyptians depend on the Nile River?

3

How did land and water connect survival in both passages?

For each prompt: label the TOPIC, CHARGE, ANSWER — then write the complete thesis (central idea).

© My Thinking Moved with Purpose!

Day 4 • Award & Target

One part of writing a thesis I can do well is... One part I still want to practice is...

Curiosity Questions

Could one topic be answered with a WHAT, a WHY, and a HOW prompt? Why must the thesis match the exact job of the prompt?

Exit Ticket

Day 5 • Educate & Explain to Others

How did water connect life in both passages?

On your own: name the TOPIC, CHARGE, and ANSWER — then write a Relational HOW thesis (central idea).

★ Thesis Match-Up

Small-Group Support

WHAT

"___ had ___ that made it ___."

WHY

"___ because ___."

RELATIONAL HOW

"___ connected ___ through ___."

Slow it down: match the TOPIC, CHARGE, and ANSWER cards before you build the sentence.

② Prompt Architect Challenge

Enrichment • Write in your notebook

Write 1 WHAT prompt, 1 WHY prompt, and 1 Relational HOW prompt.

Write a matching thesis (central idea) for each prompt.

Explain why each thesis structure fits its prompt type.

✓ My Progress Tracker

Directions

This tracker is for YOU! As you practice building a thesis (central idea), look at each skill. If you can do it all by yourself, color in or check the box that matches how you feel.

Be honest with yourself — this helps you see how much you are growing!

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: Why did the Pilgrims choose Plymouth?

LOW

"The Pilgrims chose Plymouth."

What's working: Includes the topic and charge.

What's missing: No answer to WHY — add *because* and reasons from the passage.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: Why did the Pilgrims choose Plymouth?

MEDIUM

"The Pilgrims chose Plymouth because it had fresh water."

What's working: Directly answers WHY with *because* — correct complex sentence.

What's missing: Only one reason — add the other reasons from the passage.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: Why did the Pilgrims choose Plymouth?

HIGH

"The Pilgrims chose Plymouth because it had fresh water, land for crops, trees for building, and a safe harbor."

What's working: A thesis (central idea) that directly answers WHY with *because* and every reason from the passage. This is our Module 2 target!