



THE WRITING ACADEMY, LLC®



Module 3

Understanding & Selecting Strong Evidence



Grade 3 • Cluster 1

Tackling TEKS 3.12B — Choosing & Citing Evidence



★ Meet Our Week!

Module Slide 1 • Module 3

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- Tell what evidence is and what evidence is not.
- Use CSI to check whether evidence is strong.
- Choose evidence that connects to the prompt and supports my thesis (central idea).
- Use a signal marker, comma, and quotation marks correctly.

I Can...

- Find proof from the passage.
- Tell whether a statement is evidence, not evidence, strong, or weak.
- Explain how evidence connects to the prompt and supports my thesis (central idea).
- **Write:** Signal marker, “quoted evidence.”

★ Evidence Detective Freeze

Day 1 • Gather

EVIDENCE

Freeze and make quote fingers.

NOT EVIDENCE

Cross your arms.

Listen to each statement — does it sound like real proof from a passage, or is it just an opinion?

★ Evidence Is & Is Not

Day 1 • Reveal

Evidence IS...

- words or ideas from the passage
- proof that supports a thesis (central idea)
- a detail that matches the prompt

Evidence IS NOT...

- your opinion alone
- a random detail from the text
- a copied sentence with no purpose

Evidence is proof from the passage that helps support an answer!

★ Strong Evidence Uses CSI

Day 1 • Reveal (cont.)

C

Connects to the prompt.

S

**Supports my thesis
(central idea)
statement.**

I

Infers additional ideas.



Watch Me Build It!

Day 1 • Reveal (cont.)

SIGNAL MARKER The text states,

COMMA right after the marker

QUOTATION MARKS around the exact passage words

The HABIT: Signal marker, “quoted evidence.”

The text states, “There was also fresh water and land where crops could be planted.”

★ CSI Evidence Quest!

Day 2 • Attempt

How to Play

1. Spin the spinner (Evidence / Not Evidence / Strong / Weak).
2. Draw a matching card.
3. Match it to a thesis (central idea) if needed.
4. Explain your thinking using CSI.

With Your Team...

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

★ Let's Talk About It!

Day 3 • Discuss

How does the CSI HABIT help us check evidence?

Student Directions

“Tell your partner what makes evidence strong and why signal markers matter.”

Evidence → **proof from the text**

Strong → **connects + supports + infers**

Signal Marker → **announces the quote**



From the Passage, Still Weak?

Day 3 • Discuss (cont.)

“Can something be from the passage and still be weak evidence?”

Yes! A sentence can come from the passage, but if it does not connect to the prompt or clearly support the thesis (central idea), it may still be weak evidence.

≡ Thesis + Evidence Builder

Day 3 • Use (Independent Practice) — Interactive Notebook

1

Thesis: The Pilgrims chose Plymouth because it had fresh water, land for crops, trees for building, and a safe harbor. Choose the best quoted evidence.

2

Thesis: Ancient Egyptians depended on the Nile because it provided water, food, rich soil, and transportation. Decide if the desert quote is strong or weak.

3

Write your quoted evidence: Signal marker, comma, “exact words.”

Choose the best evidence — then write it correctly with a signal marker, comma, and quotation marks.

🎯 I Proved My Thinking!

Day 4 • Award & Target

One thing I understand about evidence is... One thing I still need to practice is...

Curiosity Questions

**Can one piece of evidence support more than one thesis (central idea)?
Why is it important to introduce evidence instead of dropping it into writing?**

Exit Ticket

Day 5 • Educate & Explain to Others

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

On your own: write one strong quoted-evidence sentence with a signal marker, comma, and quotation marks. Then tell which CSI parts make it strong.

★ Evidence or Not? Match-Up

Small-Group Support

Step 1

Sort cards into Evidence and Not Evidence.

Step 2

Match evidence cards to a thesis, then add a signal marker.

Step 3

Read the full evidence sentence aloud.

Frame: “The text states, ‘_____.’” — “The passage explains, ‘_____.’”

② Evidence Ladder Challenge

Enrichment • Write in your notebook

Start with a thesis from Module 2, then add two quoted evidence sentences.

Explain which quote is strongest using CSI.

Explain what you can infer from the evidence.

✓ My Progress Tracker

Directions

This tracker is for YOU! As you practice selecting strong evidence, 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!

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

LOW

“I think Plymouth was a good place.”

What's working: The student has an idea about Plymouth.

What's missing: This is an opinion, not evidence — choose exact text proof that supports the thesis (central idea).

Let's Look at Another Answer!

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

MEDIUM

“Ancient Egypt was mostly covered by hot, dry desert.”

What's working: The student used words from the passage.

What's missing: This is evidence, but it doesn't connect to the Pilgrims thesis — select evidence about Plymouth's resources.

Our Strongest Answer!

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

HIGH

The text states, “There was also fresh water and land where crops could be planted.”

What's working: Uses a signal marker, comma, and quotation marks with evidence that connects to the prompt, supports the thesis, and helps infer why Plymouth was useful. This is our Module 3 target!