



THE WRITING ACADEMY, LLC®



Module 4

Explaining Evidence / Build the Full SCR Ladder



Grade 3 • Cluster 1

Tackling TEKS 3.12B — Reading & Writing



★ Meet Our Week!

Module Slide 1 • Module 4

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- Tell what my evidence means.
- Use *This means* or *This shows* for a Definition explanation.
- Use *This reminds me of* or *This makes me think of* for a Story/Anecdote explanation.
- Explain how my evidence proves my thesis (central idea).

I Can...

- Tell the difference between evidence and explanation.
- Start my explanation with a signal marker.
- Use the word *this* to point back to my evidence sentence.
- **Build a full SCR ladder** with a thesis, evidence, and explanation.

★ The Mystery Object Explain-It

Day 1 • Gather



How It Works

Hold up a classroom object — a pencil, a water bottle, a book. Do not name it. Turn to a partner and **explain** what it is used for or why it matters, without saying the object's name.

Wow! Wow! Wow! I'm explaining now!

★ Explaining IS / IS NOT

Day 1 • Reveal

Explaining IS

- telling what the evidence means
- showing why the evidence matters
- helping the reader understand more

Explaining IS NOT

- copying the quote again
- giving another piece of evidence
- saying something random

After a thesis (central idea) and evidence, the explanation sentence helps the reader understand what the evidence means.

★ Our Two Bookends for Explaining

Day 1 • Reveal (cont.)

D — Definition

This means...

This shows...

S — Story/Anecdote

This reminds me of...

This makes me think of...

The word **this** is a demonstrative pronoun — it points straight back to the evidence sentence right before it.

★ Watch Me Build It!

Day 1 • Reveal (cont.)

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

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

EXPLAIN This means Plymouth had resources the Pilgrims needed to live and grow food.

My Thinking

Now I need to explain the evidence. My explanation did not repeat the quote — it told what the quote **means**. Because *this* comes right after the evidence, it points straight back to it.

★ Evidence or Explanation Relay Race

Day 2 • Attempt

How to Play

1. One teammate grabs a card and reads it aloud.
2. Decide: Evidence pile or Explanation pile?
3. Sort it, then the next teammate goes.
4. Add an explanation to a thesis + evidence set.

With Your Team...

Choose your **Pencil Guy** marker. Fast thinking is great, but accurate thinking wins — move your Pencil Guy forward on the gameboard for each correct sort!

★ Let's Talk About It!

Day 3 • Discuss

What is the job of an explanation sentence?

Student Directions

"Tell your partner how explanation is different from evidence."

EVIDENCE → the
quote/proof

EXPLANATION → my own
words

THIS → points back



Can Explanation Have a Quote?

Day 3 • Discuss (cont.)

"What if I just repeat the evidence — is that explaining?"

For this lesson, the explanation should be your own words — the quote belongs in the evidence sentence. Repeating it is not explaining yet.

≡ Bookends of Explanation

Day 3 • Use (Independent Practice) — Interactive Notebook

1

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

2

Ancient Egyptians depended on the Nile River because it provided water, food, rich soil, and transportation.

3

Water connected life in both passages through survival, farming, and settlement.

For each thesis + evidence: write a Definition explanation, then a Story/Anecdote explanation.

© **Wow! Wow! Wow! I'm Explaining Now!**

Day 4 • Award & Target

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

Curiosity Questions

How is explanation different from summary? Why does an explanation help a reader trust the writer more?

Exit Ticket

Day 5 • Educate & Explain to Others

Why did people settle in places with helpful natural resources?

On your own: build the full SCR ladder — a thesis (central idea), one evidence sentence, and one Definition or Story/Anecdote explanation.

★ Quote or Explain? Match-Up

Small-Group Support

EVIDENCE

The quote or detail from the passage —
"The text states, '___.'"

EXPLANATION

"This means ___." or "This reminds me of ___."

Slow it down: match each evidence sentence to an explanation sentence, then read the pair aloud.

② Climb the Ladder Challenge

Enrichment • Write in your notebook

Write a thesis, evidence, a Definition explanation, AND a Story/Anecdote explanation.

Compare the two bookends — which signal marker begins each?

Reflect: which explanation is stronger for this evidence, and why?

✓ My Progress Tracker

Directions

This tracker is for YOU! As you practice building a full SCR ladder, 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 people settle in places with helpful natural resources?

LOW

"There was fresh water and land."

What's working: Names details from the passage.

What's missing: No thesis, no evidence sentence, no explanation — build the full SCR ladder.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: Why did people settle in places with helpful natural resources?

MEDIUM

"People settled in places with helpful natural resources because those places provided what they needed to survive. The text states, 'There was also fresh water and land where crops could be planted.'"

What's working: Has a thesis (central idea) and evidence that support it.

What's missing: Stops after the evidence — add an explanation sentence in the writer's own words.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: Why did people settle in places with helpful natural resources?

HIGH

"People settled in places with helpful natural resources because those places provided what they needed to survive. The text states, "There was also fresh water and land where crops could be planted." This means people chose places where they could find water and grow food."

What's working: A full SCR ladder — thesis (central idea), evidence, and Definition explanation. The explanation tells what the evidence means. This is our Module 4 target!