



THE WRITING ACADEMY, LLC®



Module 3

Magnifying Reasons for WHY Prompts



Grade 3 • Cluster 3

Tackling TEKS 3.12B — Building the Body of an ECR



★ Meet Our Week!

Module Slide 1 • Module 3

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- Brainstorm many reasons before I choose.
- Group like-minded reasons.
- Narrow each group into one big idea.
- Write three topic sentences that support my thesis (central idea).
- Connect each topic sentence to evidence, explanation, and significance.

I Can...

- Gather more than one idea.
- Tell which ideas belong together.
- Name the big idea in a group.
- Write a clear topic sentence for each reason.
- **Make sure my three reasons are different.**

★ A Room Full of Ideas

Day 1 • Gather



"Imagine you are standing in a giant room full of ideas. Ideas are everywhere. Some are loud. Some are tiny. Some are repeated. Some belong together. Some do not. Now imagine you are holding a giant magnifying glass."

Your job is not to grab every idea and keep it. Your job is to notice, sort, narrow, and choose.

Today we become idea collectors, idea sorters, and idea narrowers.

★ How to Magnify a Reason!

Day 1 • Reveal

1. Gather

Brainstorm many possible reasons.

2. Group

Put like-minded reasons together.

3. Narrow

Name the big idea in each group.

4. Choose

Select the best three different ideas.

5. Say It

Turn each big idea into a topic sentence.

Thesis (Central Idea):

Laws were needed because people argued, fairness was lost, and problems grew without rules.

★ Watch Me Build It!

Day 1 • Reveal (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

Red Bucket — Conflict: Laws were needed to stop growing arguments and conflict.

Blue Bucket — Fairness: Laws were needed to protect fairness for everyone.

Green Bucket — Safety/Order: Laws were needed to create safety and order in the community.

These are now topic sentences:

1. Laws were needed **because** they helped stop arguments and prevent conflicts from growing.
2. Laws were needed **because** they protected fairness and kept stronger people from taking advantage of others.
3. Laws were needed **because** they created safety and order for the whole community.

These are no longer little details — they are paragraph-sized reasons!

★ Build a Rules Flap!

Day 2 • Attempt

Four-Flap Foldable

Flap 1: Think About It (WHY)

Flap 2: Sort It (Group Ideas)

Flap 3: Shrink It (Big Idea)

Flap 4: Say It (Topic Sentence)

Flip the Flap — InterActivity

Cut out game cards, make a Practice Pocket, and play in pairs on the gameboard path leading to **Topic Sentence Tower!**

≡ WHY Do We Need Rules?

Day 2 • Attempt — Flap 1 through Flap 4

Sort

Arguing, yelling, fighting • Unfairness, not sharing, taking turns • Safety, not getting hurt, following rules

Shrink

People disagree • Things are not fair • People need to stay safe

Say
It

"One reason we need rules is because people may disagree / things may not be fair / people need to stay safe."

Listen for: more than one reason gathered, grouped by meaning, and three different topic sentences.

★ Let's Talk About It!

Day 3 • Discuss

Why is brainstorming many reasons helpful before choosing only three?

Also Discuss

How did grouping your reasons help your thinking become clearer? Why should your three final reasons come from separate groups? What happens if your topic sentences all say almost the same thing?

"Grouping helps separate details from bigger ideas — when all three reasons are different, the writing grows wider and stronger."

≡ Magnify My Reasons

Day 3 • Use (Independent Practice) — Interactive Notebook

1

Thesis (Central Idea): Laws were needed because people argued, fairness was lost, and problems grew without rules.

2

Brainstorm as many reasons as possible, then group them into three labeled boxes: Conflict • Fairness • Safety/Order.

3

Write one topic sentence from each group — your final three topic sentences.

If two topic sentences share a bucket, return and choose a different big idea.

🎯 You Magnified Your Thinking!

Day 4 • Award & Target

One thing I did well as a writer today was... Next time I want to get better at... One HABIT I will keep using is...

Curiosity Questions

What would happen if I skipped the grouping step? Could a weak topic sentence lead to a weak paragraph?

★ Teach a Partner!

Day 5 • Educate & Explain

Sentence Frames

"First, I brainstorm many reasons because..."

"Next, I group like-minded ideas by..."

"Then, I narrow each group into..."

"Finally, I turn the best three ideas into..."

Teacher Listen-Fors

Uses *brainstorm*, *group*, *narrow*, and *topic sentence*. Explains the three final reasons should be different. Connects topic sentences back to the thesis (central idea).

Exit Ticket

Day 5 • Educate & Explain to Others

Pasteurized milk is important for people's health because it removes harmful germs that can cause illness.

Brainstorm at least six ideas, group them, and write three distinct topic sentences. Underline the one that most clearly connects to safety.



Bucket by Bucket Support

Intervention • Small-Group

Step 1 — Read and Sort

Read one card aloud at a time; sort into Conflict, Fairness, or Safety/Order.

Step 2 — Name the Big Idea

"This group is about..." "The biggest idea in this group is..."

Step 3 — Say It

"A topic sentence for this group could be..."

"Hear ye, hear ye, reasons are near me. I sort them with care so my meaning is clear-y."

② Magnify Across Texts

Enrichment • Pairs or Small Groups

Paired Thesis: The solutions in "Why We Need Laws" and "The Lunchroom Discoveries" are important because they protect people, solve problems, and improve daily life.

Brainstorm from both texts, group, narrow, and select the strongest three reasons.

Advanced Extension: write a fourth paragraph idea and explain why it should or should not replace one of the top three.

✓ My Progress Tracker

Directions

This tracker is for YOU! As you practice magnifying reasons and writing topic sentences, look at each skill. If you can do it all by yourself without help, 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: Explain WHY laws were needed in "Why We Need Laws."

LOW

"People argued over land. Some people took food. Laws helped people."

What's working: The student names details from the poem.

What needs improvement: No thesis (central idea), clear reason, evidence connection, or explanation — group the details and name a larger reason in a topic sentence.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: Explain WHY laws were needed in "Why We Need Laws."

MEDIUM

"Laws were needed because people argued. Laws were needed because people argued loudly. Laws were needed because people argued over land."

What's working: Includes topic-sentence attempts about conflict.

What needs improvement: All three sentences repeat the same group — use fairness and safety/order groups to create two additional reasons.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: Explain WHY laws were needed in "Why We Need Laws."

HIGH

"Laws were needed because they helped stop arguments from growing into bigger conflicts. They were also needed because they protected fairness when some people tried to take more than others. Finally, laws created safety and order for the community. In the poem, some people took more food while others had too little. This shows that laws helped protect people from unfairness and made community life more peaceful."

What's working: A thesis (central idea)-supported set of distinct reasons, evidence, and explanation — each topic sentence comes from a different narrowed group. This is our Module 3 target!