



THE WRITING ACADEMY, LLC®



Module 1

Writing Claims for Argumentative Prompts



Grade 3 • Cluster 6



If You Have to Decide, You Must Declare the WHY!

★ Meet Our Week!

Module Slide 1 • Module 1

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- Build a claim that starts with a decision and moves to reasons (because).
- Identify whether a claim is a decision or reasons.
- Use "If you have to decide, you must declare the WHY" to organize my thoughts.
- Write a claim that answers my prompt.

I Can...

- Tell whether a claim is a decision or reasons.
- Use "If you have to decide, you must declare the WHY" to build a claim.
- Write a claim that answers my prompt.
- **Explain to a partner** how my claim declares the WHY.

★ You Must Choose!

Day 1 • Gather & Reveal

You Must Choose

Should a person always tell the truth, even if they might get in trouble?

You didn't just choose — you had a reason. If you have to decide, you must declare the WHY.

★ The Claim Formula

Day 1 • Reveal

Decision

Say what you decide.

Because

Tell that your decision has reasons.

Reasons

Explain why your decision makes sense.

A claim = a Decision + "because" + Reasons.



Watch Me Build a Claim!

Day 1 • Model the Thinking

Prompt: Explain if Amina should have told the truth about breaking the jar.

"Amina should have told the truth because honesty builds trust, shows responsibility, and helps solve problems."

I see the word "should" — that means I must decide, and I must declare the WHY.

★ Decide & Declare!

Day 2 • Attempt

Prompt Card

**Explain whether or not
Maya should have returned
to the shelter to feed
Rusty.**

With Your Group...

1. Draw a card. 2. Say "We have to decide YES or NO." 3. Say the HABIT. 4. Build the claim: "___ should have ___ because ___."

≡ Build the Claim!

Day 2 • Attempt — Interactive Notebook

1

Read the prompt aloud and identify the decision.

2

Say the HABIT: "If you have to decide, you must declare the WHY."

3

Build the claim with "because" and reasons, then defend it.

Example: "Maya should have returned to the shelter because Rusty depended on her, it was her responsibility, and fixing mistakes is important."

★ What Made Our Claims Strong?

Day 3 • Discuss

How do you know this is a WHY prompt? **We had to decide.**

Why is "because" important? **It shows reasons.**

Reason vs. evidence? **Reasons are ideas; evidence comes from the text.**

How do both stories connect? **Amina told the truth; Maya fixed her mistake.**

≡ **Decide & Declare T-Chart**

Day 3 • Use (Independent Practice) — Interactive Notebook

Prompt	Decision	Claim
Explain if Amina should have told the truth.	YES	"Amina should have told the truth because honesty builds trust and shows responsibility."

Read the prompt, write your decision, then write a claim that declares the WHY.

☆ **We Are Argument Writers!**

Day 4 • Award & Target

Earn Your Title

Claim Creator • Reason Builder • Decision Maker • Argument Leader

Target

Did I clearly choose a side? Did I explain WHY? Did I use strong reasons?

Exit Ticket

Day 5 • Educate & Explain to Others

Write a claim for: Explain if Amina should have told the truth about breaking the jar.

On your own: state a decision, add "because," and give at least two reasons that declare the WHY.

★ Build the Argument!

Day 5 • Educate (Cut-and-Paste Lab)

Prompt: Explain if Amina should have told the truth about breaking the jar.

- 1. Read and choose YES or NO.**
- 2. Build: Decision + "because" + Reasons.**
- 3. Glue the completed claim into your notebook.**

Teach the rule: if you have to decide, you must declare the WHY.

★ Claim Scaffolding

Small-Group Support

Opinion

"Being honest is important." Wide hand motion — fits many essays.

Claim

"In 'Crash,' Amina's honesty mattered because it showed responsibility."
Narrow hand motion — names an exact detail.

Frame: "In 'Crash,' ___ mattered because ___."

② The Claim Architect

Enrichment • Write in your notebook

Write two different claims for the same prompt about Amina.

Build the Bridge: name the passage and lead into your reasons.

Read both aloud — which claim flows more smoothly?

✓ **My Progress Tracker**

Directions

This tracker is for YOU! As you practice declaring the WHY, 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: In "Crash," should Amina have told Mrs. Ramirez what happened? Explain your answer.

LOW

"Amina should have told the truth."

What's working: The student picks a side.

What's missing: No "because" and no reasons — the HABIT is not followed. The claim is only a decision with no WHY.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: In "Crash," should Amina have told Mrs. Ramirez what happened? Explain your answer.

MEDIUM

"Amina should have told the truth because being honest shows responsibility."

What's working: The claim follows the HABIT with "because" and one reason.

What's missing: Only one reason, and no evidence from "Crash" is quoted yet.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: In "Crash," should Amina have told Mrs. Ramirez what happened? Explain your answer.

HIGH

"Amina should have told the truth because honesty builds trust and honesty helps make things right. In 'Crash,' Amina 'wondered if she should stay quiet' but 'raised her hand' and said, 'I bumped the table and knocked it over.' Mrs. Ramirez 'smiled kindly' and said, 'Accidents happen, but being honest shows responsibility.' Amina 'felt proud' and 'her honesty helped make things right.'"

What's working: The claim follows the HABIT — decision + "because" + two reasons — and each reason is supported with quoted evidence. This is our Module 1 target!