



THE WRITING ACADEMY, LLC®



# Module 2

**Supporting Claims with Reasons  
Through the Magnifying Process**



**Grade 3 • Cluster 6**



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

# ★ Meet Our Week!

Module Slide 1 • Module 2

★ 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 the HABIT to build a claim.
- Write a claim that answers my prompt.
- **Magnify my thinking** to find three strong, different reasons.

# ★ Popcorn Brain!

Day 1 • Gather



Pop, pop, pop — ideas fly everywhere! Some are big. Some are tiny. Some belong together. Some do not. If we write with all the popcorn flying, our writing gets messy. Today we catch the ideas, sort the ideas, and choose the strongest ones.

If you have to decide, you must declare the WHY — and now, you must support the WHY with strong reasons!

# ★ The Magnifying Process

Day 1 • Reveal

**Layer 1**      Brainstorm many reasons.

**Layer 2**      Group the reasons.

**Layer 3**      Narrow each group to one strong idea.

**Layer 4**      Choose the final three groups to become topic sentences.

We do not grab the first three reasons — we magnify our thinking: stretch it out, sort it, refine it!

# ★ Watch Me Magnify It!

## Day 1 • Reveal (cont.)

Claim: Maya should have returned to the shelter because responsibility matters, others depended on her, and fixing mistakes is important.

### Layer 1 — Brainstorm

Rusty depended on her • it was her job • she forgot his food • good citizens fix mistakes • she felt guilty • she made a promise

### Layer 2 — Group

**Responsibility:** it was her job.

**Dependence/Care:** Rusty depended on her.

**Mistakes/Repair:** good citizens fix mistakes.

# ★ Three Strong Reasons!

Day 1 • Reveal (cont.)

## Layer 3 — Narrow

Being responsible means finishing your job carefully. • Others depended on Maya to take care of Rusty. • Fixing mistakes is part of being a good citizen.

## Layer 4 — Choose the Final Three

One reason Maya should have returned is because responsibility means finishing your job carefully. Another reason is because Rusty depended on her for care. A final reason is because good citizens fix mistakes and make things right.

# ★ Reason Buckets Blitz!

Day 2 • Attempt

## How to Play

1. Draw a prompt card and matching claim card.
2. Brainstorm 9+ reason slips (Layer 1).
3. Sort into 3 reason buckets (Layer 2).
4. Narrow each bucket to one idea (Layer 3).
5. Choose the final three; write as topic sentences (Layer 4).

## You will not race across a board...

You will race to organize your thinking! Catch ideas, sort them into buckets, shrink them down, and build strong reasons. Materials: reason slips, sorting envelopes, a "Final 3 Reasons" recording sheet.



# Let's Talk About It!

Day 3 • Discuss

**"Why can't we just use the first three reasons we think of?"**

Yes. Good writers choose, not just grab.

**"What makes a strong final reason?"**

It supports the claim, can be proven with evidence, and is different from the others.

**"What is the difference between brainstorming and narrowing?"**

Brainstorming gathers; narrowing selects.

# ≡ Evidence Hunt for the Final Three

Day 3 • Use (Independent Practice) — Interactive Notebook

Now that you have your three reasons, you must prove them. Reasons are not enough — they need support.

Make a three-column chart: **Final Reason | Textual Evidence | Why It Fits.**

Copy each reason, find one piece of evidence from the passage, then explain why it fits.

Example (Amina): "Honesty builds trust" → "Mrs. Ramirez said, 'thank you for telling the truth'" → shows honesty was valued.

# 🎯 My Reasons Got Stronger!

Day 4 • Award & Target

## **Award**

**Recognition titles: Reason Builder • Claim Supporter • Magnifying Master • Evidence Hunter • Strong Thinking Star. Notebook reflection: "I am proud that I..."**

## **Target**

**Did I brainstorm enough ideas? Did I group my reasons clearly? Are my final three different, and can each be supported with evidence?**

# Exit Ticket — Educate & Explain

Day 5 • Educate & Explain to Others

**Turn and teach a partner how the magnifying process works: brainstorm, group, narrow, choose, prove.**

Frames: "Layer 1 is..." "Layer 2 is..." "Layer 3 is..." "Layer 4 is..." "A strong reason must..."

# ★ Pick, Sort, Shrink

Intervention • Small-Group Support

We make the magnifying process smaller and easier. Teacher gives 9 prewritten reason slips. Students sort into 3 like groups, cross out the weakest reason in each, and keep only the strongest idea from each group.

## Support Frames

"One reason \_\_\_ is because..." "Another reason \_\_\_ is because..." "A final reason \_\_\_ is because..."

# ② Stronger Than Mine?

Enrichment • Write in your notebook

**Set A (weak): "because telling the truth is good" • "because she broke it" • "because honesty is nice"**

**Set B (strong): "because honesty builds trust between people" • "because responsibility means owning your mistakes" • "because telling the truth helps solve problems"**

**Compare the sets, revise one weak reason into a stronger one, then find evidence for it.**

# ✓ My Progress Tracker

## Directions

This tracker is for YOU! As you practice the Magnifying Process — brainstorm, group, narrow, choose — 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 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 gives one reason.

**What's missing:** Only one reason and no evidence from "Crash" — add a second reason and quote evidence.

# 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 from "Crash." This is our Module 2 target!