

THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC
A TRUE SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT SYSTEM

Core Curriculum Connection Activities

GRADE 4 • CLUSTER 3

Grade 4, Cluster 3. Four activities, one per module, showing how the Teach BIG full TREES response plugs straight into the Bluebonnet core the state already gives your district. Run it either way, from their content or from ours.

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CORE CURRICULUM CONNECTION ACTIVITY

THE CORE READING

The Middle Ages

Bluebonnet Grade 4 Knowledge Unit

THE WRITING

Cluster 3 • Module 1 • Your First Full TREES Response

Teach BIG™ Grade 4 • Informational
Extended Constructed Response

WHAT YOUR CLASS ALREADY KNOWS

Your students have studied the Middle Ages in Bluebonnet. They can describe knights, castles, and kings, and how power and daily life worked in medieval times.

THE WRITING WE ADD

Cluster 3 builds a full TREES response, Topic sentence, Reasons, Evidence, Explanation, and Summary. Module 1 walks students through all five parts once.

TWO WAYS TO RUN IT, TEACHER'S CHOICE

USING BLUEBONNET CORE CONTENT

Have students draft a short TREES response from the Bluebonnet Middle Ages reading.

USING THE WRITING ACADEMY SUPPLEMENTAL CONTENT

Or use our Cluster 3 poem, A Lone Star Choice, to build the same TREES response from our content.

A FIVE MINUTE BRIDGE

Give students a prompt. Ask them to write the topic sentence and one reason. In five minutes they will begin a full TREES response.

CORE CURRICULUM CONNECTION ACTIVITY

THE CORE READING

Geology

Bluebonnet Grade 4 Knowledge Unit

THE WRITING

Cluster 3 • Module 2 • Recognizing Relational Prompt Types

Teach BIG™ Grade 4 • Informational
Extended Constructed Response

WHAT YOUR CLASS ALREADY KNOWS

Your students have studied geology in Bluebonnet. They can explain how rocks form and how the earth changes over time, and they have many science facts ready to use.

THE WRITING WE ADD

Module 2 reads the prompt closely. Students decide whether a prompt asks How, Why, or in What Way, and shape the thesis to match.

TWO WAYS TO RUN IT, TEACHER'S CHOICE

USING BLUEBONNET CORE CONTENT

Give students Bluebonnet Geology prompts and have them label each as How, Why, or in What Way.

USING THE WRITING ACADEMY SUPPLEMENTAL CONTENT

Or use our Cluster 3 drama, Making It Happen, to sort prompt types from our content.

A FIVE MINUTE BRIDGE

Show two prompts. Ask students which asks Why and which asks How, with a reason each. In five minutes they will match the thesis to the prompt.

CORE CURRICULUM CONNECTION ACTIVITY

THE CORE READING

American Revolution

Bluebonnet Grade 4 Knowledge Unit

THE WRITING

Cluster 3 • Module 3 • Magnifying Many Ideas into Three

Teach BIG™ Grade 4 • Informational
Extended Constructed Response

WHAT YOUR CLASS ALREADY KNOWS

Your students have studied the American Revolution in Bluebonnet. They know why the colonists sought independence and how a new nation began.

THE WRITING WE ADD

Module 3 narrows the reasons. Students take many ideas and magnify them down to the three strongest that support the thesis.

TWO WAYS TO RUN IT, TEACHER'S CHOICE

USING BLUEBONNET CORE CONTENT

Have students brainstorm reasons from the Bluebonnet American Revolution reading, then narrow to three.

USING THE WRITING ACADEMY SUPPLEMENTAL CONTENT

Or use our Cluster 3 passages to magnify many ideas into three from our content.

A FIVE MINUTE BRIDGE

Ask students to list four reasons, then cross out until three remain. In five minutes they will choose their body paragraphs.

CORE CURRICULUM CONNECTION ACTIVITY

THE CORE READING

Innovation and Industry in Energy

Bluebonnet Grade 4 Knowledge Unit

THE WRITING

Cluster 3 • Module 4 • Matching Reasons, Evidence, and Explanation

Teach BIG™ Grade 4 • Informational
Extended Constructed Response

WHAT YOUR CLASS ALREADY KNOWS

Your students have studied energy and industry in Bluebonnet. They can explain where energy comes from and how it powers the world around them.

THE WRITING WE ADD

Module 4 connects the parts. Students match each reason to its own evidence and explanation so every part of the response holds together.

TWO WAYS TO RUN IT, TEACHER'S CHOICE

USING BLUEBONNET CORE CONTENT

Have students match a reason from the Bluebonnet Energy reading to a detail and an explanation.

USING THE WRITING ACADEMY SUPPLEMENTAL CONTENT

Or use our Cluster 3 passages to match reason, evidence, and explanation from our content.

A FIVE MINUTE BRIDGE

Give students a reason and a detail. Ask them to add one sentence that explains how the detail proves the reason. In five minutes they will link the parts.