



THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC

Module 1

Shaping the Prompt

Grade 3 · Cluster 1



Tackling TEKS · Reading & Writing

3.11A(i) · 3.12B(i)



★ Meet Our Week!

Week 1 · Low Stamina

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- Teach the commitment to mark the noun with a red circle.
- Teach the commitment to mark the verb with a yellow box.
- Teach the commitment to mark the clue word with a green triangle.
- Teach the commitment to decide WHAT, WHY, or HOW.
- Connect accurate prompt analysis to planning the three-sentence SCR.

I Can...

- Look for the ability to find the noun of importance.
- Look for the ability to find the verb of importance.
- Look for the ability to find the clue word signaling WHAT, WHY, or HOW.
- Look for the ability to explain the prompt's demand to a partner.



Question Detectives

Day 1 · Gather & Reveal

★ Daily Deck

The Pilgrims Chose Plymouth

informational text

Why did the Pilgrims choose Plymouth as their settlement?

Would you rather answer a why or a how question?

Today you will become a question detective.



Dot the Tricky Words

Day 1 · Gather & Reveal

★ Daily Deck

D

Dot

Place a small dot above any word you are not sure about yet.

O

Discover

Discover the meaning as we learn together through our lessons.

T

Drop

Erase the dot once you know what the word means.

A little dot above a word means:
“I’m not sure about this word yet.”

Dot the word. Discover the meaning. Drop the dot, then celebrate when you own it!



Shaping the Prompt

Day 1 · Reveal

★ Daily Deck

RC

Noun

The noun identifies the topic.

YB

Verb

The verb identifies the action.

GT

Clue word

The clue determines the type.

Red circle, main noun; yellow box, verb; green triangle, clue word.

Draw a red circle around Pilgrims, a yellow box around choose, and a green triangle around Why.

★ Watch the Model

Day 1 · Reveal (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

Prompt-Shaping Key

Noun (topic)

Verb (action)

Clue word (WHAT, WHY, or HOW)

Watch Me!

Prompt: Why did the Pilgrims choose Plymouth as their settlement?

Model: Draw a red circle around Pilgrims, a yellow box around choose, and a green triangle around Why. You now know to explain a reason.

Explain that Why requires a reason.

★ Shape Detectives

Day 2 · Attempt · Partner Game

★ Daily Deck

The Pilgrims Chose Plymouth

How to Play

- 1 Have groups spread word cards.
- 2 Call noun, verb, or question clue.
- 3 Students place red circles, yellow boxes, or green triangles on matching cards.

Success Check: *Check each sort before the Lightning Round.*

Guided Prompt

Task Card

How did the Nile River help farmers grow crops?

Answer

Circle Nile River, box help, and triangle How. Explain how you know it is a HOW question.

How did the Nile River help farmers grow crops?

What noun did you circle?

What verb did you box?

What clue word did you triangle?

How do you use water or shelter in
your own life?

Student Directions: “Turn to your partner and mark the question using the three shapes.”

How does the Nile River help farmers grow their crops?

Thesis (central idea)

Evidence

Explanation

One sentence that answers the exact prompt.



Try It On Your Own!

Day 3 · Use (Independent Practice) · Interactive Notebook

1

Mark "What natural resources did the Pilgrims find near Plymouth?"

2

Mark "Why did the Pilgrims need to build shelters quickly?"

3

Mark "How did the Nile River affect where towns and cities were built?"

Each prompt needs a red circle, yellow box, green triangle, and a WHAT / WHY / HOW label.

★ Award & Target!

Day 4 · Award & Target

★ Daily Deck

Award 🏆

Celebrate a correctly identified noun, verb, or clue word.

- Identified the noun
- Found the verb
- Determined WHAT, WHY, or HOW

Target 🎯

Show one thing you did well.

Curiosity Questions

Why do test writers ask WHAT, WHY, and HOW questions?



Exit Ticket

Day 5 · Educate & Explain to Others

★ Daily Deck

How does the Nile River help farmers grow their crops?

Have students mark the noun, verb, and clue and label the question type.

Circle Nile River, box help, triangle How, and label HOW.

★ Question Type Detective

Small-Group Support

★ Daily Deck

Use Thinking Clue Cards for the specific missing skill.

WHAT names information

WHY gives a reason

HOW explains a process

Circle the noun, box the verb, triangle the clue, and decide WHAT, WHY, or HOW.

Have students rehearse, then re-mark one prompt and explain their change.

★ Question Surgeons

Enrichment · Write in your notebook

Rebuild the prompt, diagnose its parts, transform its type, and explain the changes.

Have each student write an original SCR prompt connected to either passage.

Assemble a complete question

Mark the noun, verb, and clue

Record its type

★ My Progress Tracker

This tracker is for **YOU!** As you read and write this week, look at each skill. If you can do it all by yourself, color in the box that matches how you feel. Be honest, this helps you see how much you are growing!

I Can...	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Circle the main noun in red.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Box the important verb in yellow.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Triangle the clue word in green.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Identify WHAT as a request to name or describe.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Identify WHY as a request for a reason.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Identify HOW as a request for a process or steps.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Restate the prompt without changing its demand.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Write the answer in a complete sentence.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Explain the three-shape routine to a partner.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!



Citizenship Connection

Good Citizens · Our Community & Country

★ Natural Resources and Community

Connect the passages to how communities use natural resources to support daily life.

Reflect & Discuss

How do you use these resources in your own community?

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: Why did the Pilgrims need to build shelters quickly?

LOW

They built houses.

What Is Working: Names an action from the passage.

What Needs Improvement: A thesis (central idea) answering WHY, evidence, and explanation are missing.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: Why did the Pilgrims need to build shelters quickly?

MEDIUM

The Pilgrims built shelters quickly because winter was coming.

What Is Working: States a thesis (central idea) that answers WHY and uses because.

What Needs Improvement: A separate quoted or paraphrased evidence sentence and an explanation are missing.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: Why did the Pilgrims need to build shelters quickly?

HIGH

The Pilgrims needed to build shelters quickly because winter was coming. The passage says winter was coming and they needed to begin building shelters. Without shelter, the Pilgrims could not survive the cold, so building quickly kept them safe.

What Is Working: Three sentences supply a thesis (central idea), one piece of evidence, and an explanation, all answering WHY.

Teacher Notes: This is the target for end-of-module writing.

★ **This is our target!**