



THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC

Module 2

Writing a Thesis (central idea)

Grade 3 · Cluster 1



Tackling TEKS · Reading & Writing

3.11A(i) · 3.12B(i) · 3.12B(ii) · 3.12B(iii)



★ Meet Our Week!

Week 2 · Medium Stamina

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- Students will find the TOPIC and CHARGE in a prompt.
- Students will think of an ANSWER from the passage.
- Students will write a WHAT thesis (central idea) with facts or details.
- Students will write a WHY thesis (central idea) with because and reasons.
- Students will write a Relational HOW thesis (central idea) with a preposition and connections.

I Can...

- Students can name TOPIC, CHARGE, and ANSWER.
- Students can identify which pieces come from the prompt and which comes from the writer.
- Students can write a thesis (central idea) that fits the job of the prompt.
- Students can explain to a partner why the thesis (central idea) structure fits the prompt type.

★ Mystery Door Prompt Sort

Day 1 · Gather & Reveal

★ Daily Deck

Plymouth; the Nile River

informational text

How can a writer build a thesis (central idea) statement that answers a WHAT, WHY, or Relational HOW short constructed response prompt?

Listen to each prompt and decide which door it belongs behind. Study the kind of question before you answer.

You have three mystery doors: WHAT, WHY, and RELATIONAL HOW.

★ 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!



Three Pieces to a Thesis (central idea)

Day 1 · Reveal

★ Daily Deck

T

TOPIC

The noun of importance.

C

CHARGE

The verb of importance.

A

ANSWER

The response to the charge,
using accurate passage
information.

TOPIC and CHARGE come from the prompt; ANSWER comes from reading.

Combines TOPIC, CHARGE, and ANSWER in the correct sentence type.



WHAT, WHY, Relational HOW Models

★ Daily Deck

Day 1 · Reveal (cont.)

Prompt-Shaping Key

Noun: TOPIC from the prompt

Verb: CHARGE from the prompt

Clue word: WHAT, WHY, or HOW

Watch Me!

Prompt: What resources made Plymouth a good place to settle?

Model: Plymouth had fresh water, land for crops, tall trees, and a safe harbor.

For WHAT, you need a simple sentence with facts or details.

★ Spin, Build, and Move!

Day 2 · Attempt · Partner Game

★ Daily Deck

Plymouth; the Nile River

How to Play

- 1 Choose your Pencil Guy marker.
- 2 Spin, draw a matching prompt, and name TOPIC, CHARGE, and ANSWER.
- 3 Build the correct kind of thesis (central idea).
- 4 When your thesis (central idea) is correct, move your Pencil Guy forward one space.

Success Check: *Check WHAT facts, WHY because and reasons, and Relational HOW prepositions and connections before the marker moves.*

Prompt Card

Task Card

Why did the Pilgrims choose Plymouth?

Answer

The Pilgrims chose Plymouth because it had fresh water, land for crops, trees for building, and a safe harbor.

What three pieces do you use to build a thesis (central idea)?

Which two do you find in the prompt, and which one do you supply from your reading?

Which preposition could you use: by, through, with, or across?

Discuss how facts/details differ from reasons

how ways/connections differ from reasons

Student Directions: “Invite students to describe a personal connection to using water or cooperating with others.”



Prompt Type = Thesis (central idea) Type

Day 3 · Discuss (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

**If the idea is accurate but the sentence type does not match,
have the student choose the matching frame and revise.**

WHAT: simple sentence

WHY: complex sentence

Relational HOW: preposition

WHAT gives facts or details; WHY gives reasons.



Try It On Your Own!

Day 3 · Use (Independent Practice) · Interactive Notebook

1

Read and shape each prompt, then label its TOPIC and CHARGE.

2

Identify an ANSWER from the passage or passages.

3

Write the complete thesis (central idea) independently and check its match to the prompt.

Encourage accurate use of module vocabulary when it fits the thesis (central idea) naturally.

★ Award & Target!

Day 4 · Award & Target

★ Daily Deck

Award 🏆

Have students point to completed work as evidence.

- Three-Piece Snap
- Pencil Guy Parade
- Notebook Brag Line
- Partner Praise

Target 🎯

one thesis (central idea)-building part
done well

Curiosity Questions

could one topic support WHAT, WHY, and
HOW?



Exit Ticket

Day 5 · Educate & Explain to Others

★ Daily Deck

How did water connect life in both passages?

Students identify TOPIC, CHARGE, and ANSWER, then write a Relational HOW thesis (central idea).

Water connected life in both passages through survival, farming, and settlement.



Thesis (central idea) Match-Up

Small-Group Support

★ Daily Deck

Use Thesis (central idea) Match-Up after Day 3 as needed: make TOPIC, CHARGE, and ANSWER visible with cards.

Pull the parts apart, name them, and put them back together

Read the prompt aloud; students choose the matching frame

Have students match the cards and build:

The Pilgrims chose Plymouth because it had fresh water, land for crops, trees, and a harbor.

Keep selection of the answer and final wording with the student.



Prompt Architect Challenge

Enrichment · Write in your notebook

students ready for enrichment create one WHAT, one WHY, and one Relational HOW prompt, write a matching thesis (central idea) for each, and explain each structure.

Write one WHAT, one WHY, and one Relational HOW prompt.

Design the Prompts

Connect Across Texts

★ 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	Developing	Secure
Finds the TOPIC in a prompt.	Not Yet	Developing	Secure
Finds the CHARGE in a prompt.	Not Yet	Developing	Secure
Supplies an ANSWER from the passages.	Not Yet	Developing	Secure
Writes a WHAT thesis (central idea) with facts or details.	Not Yet	Developing	Secure
Writes a WHY thesis (central idea) with because and reasons.	Not Yet	Developing	Secure
Writes a Relational HOW thesis (central idea) with a preposition and connections.	Not Yet	Developing	Secure
Explains why the thesis (central idea) fits the prompt.	Not Yet	Developing	Secure
Identifies which pieces come from the prompt and which comes from reading.	Not Yet	Developing	Secure
Revises the thesis (central idea) for the matching structure and a complete answer.	Not Yet	Developing	Secure



Citizenship Connection

Good Citizens · Our Community & Country

★ Cooperation and shared resources

Connect the passages to cooperation, shared resources, and the ways natural resources support communities.

Reflect & Discuss

how did water support community life in each setting?

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: How did water connect life in both passages?

LOW

The Pilgrims chose Plymouth.

What Is Working: Includes the TOPIC and CHARGE.

What Needs Improvement: An ANSWER to WHY is missing because no reason is supplied.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: How did water connect life in both passages?

MEDIUM

The Pilgrims chose Plymouth because it had fresh water.

What Is Working: Directly answers WHY and uses because.

What Needs Improvement: Other relevant passage-based reasons can strengthen the answer.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: How did water connect life in both passages?

HIGH

The Pilgrims chose Plymouth because it had fresh water, land for crops, trees for building, and a safe harbor.

What Is Working: Includes TOPIC, CHARGE, and a passage-based ANSWER. This is the Module 2 thesis (central idea) target and is ready to begin a later SCR.

★ **This is our target!**