



THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC

Module 1

Prompt Analysis & Thesis (central idea) Writing

Grade 3 · Cluster 3



Tackling TEKS · Reading & Writing

3.11A · 3.12B · 3.12B(i)



★ Meet Our Week!

Week 1 · Low Stamina

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- I will find important nouns, the important verb, and the clue word in a prompt.
- I will decide whether a prompt asks WHY or HOW.
- I will identify the problem in the text.
- I will write a thesis (central idea) that matches the prompt.
- I will connect my thesis (central idea) to reasons, evidence, and explanation.

I Can...

- I can shape a prompt with a circle, box, and triangle.
- I can tell whether a prompt asks for reasons or a way something happened.
- I can use the conflict in a text to help me think.
- I can write a complete thesis (central idea) for an ECR.



A Problem & A Discovery

Day 1 · Gather & Reveal

★ Daily Deck

"Why We Need Laws" & "The Lunchroom Discoveries"

poem and drama

What if our classroom had no rules? Would it be calm? Fair? Safe?

What if milk wasn't safe to drink?

Both are built around a BIG idea: a PROBLEM and how people solved it.



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

C

Noun

Circle important nouns (the topic).

B

Verb

Box the important verb (the action).

T

Clue word

Triangle the clue word (WHY or HOW).

WHY asks for reasons. HOW asks for a way something happened.

Use the words you know and the anchor chart to make their thinking visible.

Prompt-Shaping Key

Circle important nouns (the topic).

Box the important verb (the action).

Triangle the clue word (WHY or HOW).

Watch Me!

Prompt: Explain WHY laws help communities stay safe and fair.

Model: Laws help communities stay safe and fair because they create structure and protect people from unfair actions.

A because phrase can help me state a reason.

★ Spin and Shape Showdown!

Day 2 · Attempt · Partner Game

★ Daily Deck

"Why We Need Laws" & "The Lunchroom Discoveries"

How to Play

- 1 Spin WHY, HOW, or BOTH.
- 2 Draw a prompt card for the thinking type.
- 3 Shape it with hand motions.
- 4 Say the type aloud.
- 5 Write a thesis (central idea).

Success Check: *Correct thesis (central idea): move 2 spaces!*

Sample Card

Task Card

Explain HOW Pasteur's discovery solved a problem.

Answer

Pasteur's discovery solved the problem of unsafe milk by showing that heating liquids could kill harmful germs.

Explain WHY laws were needed in the poem.

What told you this was a WHY prompt?

How did the conflict help you write your thesis (central idea)?

What has this passage reminded you of in your own life?

What have you learned from this passage that will help you in your own life?

Student Directions: “Invite two or three students to describe a personal connection to fairness, rules, safety, or discovery.”

★ The ECR (TREES) Chart

Day 3 · Discuss (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

The prompt tells students what to think about; the ECR (TREES) chart tells students how to make their thinking visible.

**Thesis (central
idea)**

Reason/Way

Evidence

Explanation

Significance

The prompt tells students what to think about; the ECR (TREES) chart tells students how to make their thinking visible.



Try It On Your Own!

Day 3 · Use (Independent Practice) · Interactive Notebook

1

Shape the prompt in your notebook.

2

Write a thesis (central idea).

3

Underline the reason in your thesis (central idea).

A thesis (central idea) must answer the exact WHY or HOW question, not just state a detail.

★ Award & Target!

Day 4 · Award & Target

★ Daily Deck

Award 🏆

Take a Step Forward If...

- You shaped your prompt correctly
- your thesis (central idea) matched the prompt
- you used the conflict to guide your thinking

Target 🎯

Laws were needed because people argued, fairness was lost, and problems grew without rules.

Curiosity Questions

How do fair rules and shared knowledge help a community keep people safe?



Exit Ticket

Day 5 · Educate & Explain to Others

★ Daily Deck

Explain HOW Pasteur's discovery solved a problem.

Shape the prompt, write a thesis (central idea), and underline the words that tell how the discovery solved the problem.

Check for HOW, the problem of unsafe milk, and a thesis (central idea) explaining that heating liquids could kill harmful germs.



Build It, Fix It, Say It

Small-Group Support

★ Daily Deck

Students shape one prompt at a time with a circle, box, and triangle.

The problem was: _____.

This caused: _____.

So, laws were needed because: _____.

This prompt is asking for _____ because I see _____.

WHY asks for reasons. HOW asks for a way something happened.



Think Like an Author, Write Like a Scholar

Enrichment · Write in your notebook

Explain WHY AND HOW laws improved communities. WHY: because they created fairness and reduced conflict. HOW: by setting clear rules that guided behavior and prevented disagreements.

Combine a reason and a way in a complete thesis (central idea).

Briefly compare the problems in the two texts.

Write a Matching Thesis (central idea).

Apply the same habit to one drama prompt.

★ 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 important nouns, box the important verb, and triangle WHY or HOW.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Tell whether a prompt asks for reasons or a way something happened.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Explain the difference between WHY and HOW.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Identify the problem or conflict in the text.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Write a thesis (central idea) that answers WHY with a reason.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Write a thesis (central idea) that answers HOW with a way something happened.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Add evidence that supports my thesis (central idea).	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Explain how my evidence proves my thinking.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Revise my thesis (central idea) to make it clear and complete.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!



Citizenship Connection

Good Citizens · Our Community & Country

★ Self-government and responsible citizenship

Communities write laws so everyone is treated fairly, and scientists share discoveries so everyone can stay healthy. Both are ways people take care of one another.

Reflect & Discuss

How do fair rules and shared knowledge help a community keep people safe?

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: Explain WHY communities need laws in "Why We Need Laws."

LOW

Laws are good.

What Is Working: Named the topic (laws) and attempted a complete sentence.

What Needs Improvement: The response does not answer WHY and has no reason, evidence, or explanation.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: Explain WHY communities need laws in "Why We Need Laws."

MEDIUM

Laws were needed because people had problems.

What Is Working: The thesis (central idea) answers WHY and includes a reason.

What Needs Improvement: The reason is too vague and there is no evidence or explanation.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: Explain WHY communities need laws in "Why We Need Laws."

HIGH

Laws were needed because people argued, fairness was lost, and problems grew without rules.

What Is Working: It answers WHY with specific reasons grounded in the poem's conflict.

★ **This is our target!**