



THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC

Module 1

Writing Claims for Argumentative Prompts

Grade 3 · Cluster 6



Tackling TEKS · Reading & Writing

3.12C(i) · 3.12C(ii)



★ 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

"Crash" and "The Good Citizen."

both narratives

How can shaping a WHY or HOW prompt and finding the conflict help a writer create a clear thesis (central idea)?

Notice what each character chooses and why the choice matters.

As you listen, notice what each character chooses and why the choice matters.

★ 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

topic or decision

circle important nouns,

B

action verb

box the important verb,

T

decision clue word

triangle WHY or HOW.

Add the ECR (argument path) chart with Reason/Way in the second row and a DOT reminder for unknown words.

After shaping a prompt, students name the conflict and add a matching thesis (central idea) example.

Three Shapes

circle the topic or decision,

box the action verb,

triangle the decision clue word

Watch Me!

Prompt: Explain if Amina should have told the truth about breaking the jar.

Model: Amina should have told the truth because honesty builds trust, shows responsibility, and helps solve problems.

Point out the decision, the word "because," and the three reasons.

★ Spin and Shape Showdown!

Day 2 · Attempt · Partner Game

★ Daily Deck

"Crash" and "The Good Citizen."

How to Play

- 1 Read the whole prompt.
- 2 Triangle "should, whether, if."
- 3 Choose a side.
- 4 Add "because."
- 5 Give two or more reasons.

Success Check: *Name the decision clue word.*

Decide and Declare

Task Card

Should Maya have returned to the shelter to feed Rusty?

Answer

"Maya should have returned because
_____ and _____."

What decision does the claim make?

What decision does the claim make?

Where do you hear because?

Which reasons connect to what happened in the narrative?

What should Amina have done?

Student Directions: “Write a claim for: Explain if Amina should have told the truth about breaking the jar.”



The Two Types of Prompts

Day 3 · Discuss (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

What kind of thinking does it ask for?

WHY

HOW

WHY AND HOW

HOW asks for a way something happened.



Try It On Your Own!

Day 3 · Use (Independent Practice) · Interactive Notebook

1

Write a claim for: Explain if Amina should have told the truth about breaking the jar.

2

Add "because" and reasons.

3

Underline the reasons.

Check for the decision, "because," and reasons connected to "Crash."

★ Award & Target!

Day 4 · Award & Target

★ Daily Deck

Award 🏆

Point to one place where you made a decision and one place where you declared the WHY.

- Point to one place where you made a decision
- one place where you declared the WHY.
- That is evidence of growth.

Target 🎯

"Amina should have ____."

Curiosity Questions

What should Amina have done?



Exit Ticket

Day 5 · Educate & Explain to Others

★ Daily Deck

Explain whether Maya should have returned to the shelter to feed Rusty.

Build a claim using a decision + "because" + reasons.

Write one passage detail that supports one reason.



Build It, Fix It, Say It

Small-Group Support

★ Daily Deck

Support students who need help shaping a prompt, deciding WHY or HOW, finding the conflict, or writing a complete thesis (central idea).

Circle the important nouns, box the important verb, and triangle the clue word.

This prompt is asking for _____ because I see _____.

The problem was: _____. This caused: _____. So, responsibility were needed because: _____.

each student says and writes a complete thesis (central idea).



Think Like an Author, Write Like a Scholar

Enrichment · Write in your notebook

Challenge students who shape prompts accurately to answer the deck's
WHY AND HOW prompt about responsibility,

Explain WHY AND HOW responsibility improved people.

Students circle
responsibility and
people, box improved,
and triangle WHY and
HOW in this single
prompt.

Partners check the
thesis (central idea)
against both parts of
the shaped prompt.

Shape it, identify the
conflict, and write a
matching thesis
(central idea) with the
way underlined.

★ 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

★ responsible citizenship

Communities write responsibility 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 care and shared knowledge help a classroom keep people safe?

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: Explain WHY people need responsibility in "Crash."

LOW

Amina was honest.

What Is Working: Named the topic (responsibility) 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 people need responsibility in "Crash."

MEDIUM

Amina should have told the truth because it was the right thing to do.

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 people need responsibility in "Crash."

HIGH

Amina should have told the truth because honesty builds trust, shows responsibility, and helps solve problems.

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

★ **This is our target!**