

3rd Grade — Clusters at a Glance

Teach BIG® Writing Curriculum • The Writing Academy®, LLC • Grade 3

CLUSTER	OVERARCHING BIG IDEA	MODULES	MAIN FOCUS OF EACH MODULE
Prepare <i>Genre Selection & Narrative</i>	One topic can be written many ways. Students learn to recognize when narrative fits, match the writing job (genre) to the topic, purpose, and audience, and plan a response before drafting.	Module 1	One Topic, Different Writing Jobs: Recognizing When Narrative Fits
		Module 2	Match the Writing Job to the Genre: Purpose, Audience, and Narrative Craft
		Module 3	Plan the Path Before the Draft: Brainstorm, Freewrite, Map, and Choose
		Module 4	Choose, Justify, Draft, Revise, and Teach: The Complete Response Ecosystem
Cluster 1 <i>Short Constructed Response (SCR)</i>	Analyze the prompt, then build a Short Constructed Response (SCR): a clear central idea (thesis), strong evidence, and an explanation that proves it.	Module 1	Shaping the Prompt / Cracking the SCR Question Code
		Module 2	Writing a Thesis (Central Idea)
		Module 3	Understanding and Selecting Strong Evidence
		Module 4	Explaining Evidence / Build the Full SCR Ladder
Cluster 2 <i>SCR with TREES</i>	Use the TREES structure to shape the prompt and build a response — Thesis, Reason/Way, and Evidence — one branch at a time.	Module 1	TREES and Shaping the Prompt
		Module 2	Writing the Thesis
		Module 3	Reason/Way — The First Branch of the TREES
		Module 4	Evidence — The Second Branch of the TREES

Cluster 3 <i>SCR – Reasons & Matching</i>	Analyze WHY prompts and match strong reasons, evidence, and explanations to a clear central idea.	Module 1	Prompt Analysis & Thesis (Central Idea) Writing
		Module 2	Advanced Prompt Analysis
		Module 3	Magnifying Reasons for WHY Prompts
		Module 4	Matching Reasons, Evidence, and Explanations
Cluster 4 <i>Informational ECR (MICE / GET SET)</i>	Build the informational Extended Constructed Response (ECR): significant inferencing sentences (MICE) and the GET SET introduction (Statement of Purpose + Evidentiary Transition).	Module 1	Significant Inferencing Sentences Using MICE
		Module 2	Significant Inferencing Sentences for HOW Prompts Using MICE
		Module 3	Getting SET with the Statement of Purpose
		Module 4	The Yellow Sentence – Evidentiary Transition
Cluster 5 <i>Paired-Passage ECR</i>	Respond to paired passages – connect two texts and build a full, color-coded ECR with an R1/R2/R3 conclusion.	Module 1	Paired Passage Responses – Connecting Two Texts
		Module 2	Paired Passage HOW Prompts – Similarities and Differences
		Module 3	Conclusion Paragraph with R1, R2, and R3 – The Bluebird Moment
		Module 4	Color-Coding the Full ECR Paper

Cluster 6 <i>Argumentative (CREATURES)</i>	Argumentative writing: if you decide, declare the WHY. Make a claim, support it with reasons and evidence (CREATURES), and complete an argumentative paper and persuasive letter.	Module 1	Writing Claims for Argumentative Prompts
		Module 2	Supporting Claims with Reasons Through the Magnifying Process
		Module 3	Completing the Argumentative Paper with CREATURES
		Module 4	Argumentative Correspondence — Writing a Persuasive Letter
Cluster 7 <i>Poetry (LEAVES)</i>	Poetry with the LEAVES framework. Two poems (Dr. King / hope and President Kennedy / service) return at rising stamina. Overarching question: How can words, dreams, and acts of service inspire people to make a positive difference?	Module 1	Entering the Experience — Reading Poems That Inspire (LEAVES: Lines & Layout, Emotion & Experience)
		Module 2	Whose Voice? — Emotion, Experience, and the Speaker (adds Voice)
		Module 3	The Moment That Stays — Artistic Language and Sound (adds Artistic Language, Echo & Sound)
		Module 4	Meaning and Significance — Bringing All of LEAVES Together (full LEAVES)
Cluster 8 <i>Research Paper</i>	Research writing. Students synthesize multiple sources (across the whole Grade 3 year) into one five-paragraph research paper answering: What helps a community grow strong?	Module 1	PLACE — From Resource to Evidence (Body Paragraph 1)
		Module 2	PROBLEM — From Question to Solution (Body Paragraph 2)
		Module 3	PEOPLE — Choices, Service, and Memory (Body Paragraph 3)
		Module 4	TRANSFER — One Paper, One Proof, One Community (published research paper)