



THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC



Module 1

PLACE: Where Does Change Begin?

Grade 4 · Cluster 8

Tackling TEKS · Reading & Writing



4.13(A) · 4.13(B) · 4.13(C) · 4.13(D) · 4.13(E) · 4.13(F) · 4.13(G) · 4.13(H) · 4.11(C) · 4.11(D)



★ Meet Our Week!

Week 1 · Research Convergence · Cluster 8

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- I will ask, “What does this help me prove?” before choosing evidence.
- I will mark exact source words Q and ideas written in new words P.
- I will name the source whenever I quote or paraphrase.
- I will explain what my evidence means, why it matters, and how it proves my R.

I Can...

- I can gather relevant evidence about how PLACE creates possibilities and challenges.
- I can tell a direct quotation from a paraphrase.
- I can give source credit for both quotations and paraphrases.
- I can write Body Paragraph 1 using R-E1-E2.



WHAT SHAPES OUR WORLD?

Day 1 · Gather & Reveal

★ Daily Deck

Passage 15: “What Shapes a Society? Place, Resources, and Connection”

How can a place create both opportunities and challenges for a society?

Which would change your life the most? living beside a river; living in a desert; living beside a harbor; living on a windy plain.

Choose based on what that place would make possible, and what it might make difficult.

★ 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!



PLACE Does Not Control People

Day 1 · Reveal

★ Daily Deck

R

REASON OR WAY

One way societies are shaped is by the places, resources, and connections available to people.

E1

EVIDENCE

Passage 15 explains that Mali was located near valuable gold and important trade routes.

E2

EXPLANATION

What does it mean? Why does it matter? How does it prove the R?

A REPORT COLLECTS INFORMATION. A RESEARCH PAPER USES INFORMATION TO PROVE AN ANSWER.

PLACE creates possibilities and limits. PEOPLE make choices.

★ Research vs. Report

Day 1 · Reveal (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

Combine Facts to Reach a Conclusion

Mali had gold.

Salt traveled through trade.

Mali was located near important trade routes.

Timbuktu became a center of trade and learning.

Watch Me!

REPORT: What resources did Mali have?

RESEARCH: How did resources and location work together to help Mali change?

“I can conclude that geography and resources created an opportunity, but people had to build and use the trade connections.”



PLACE-POSSIBILITY-PROBLEM

★ Daily Deck

Day 2 · Attempt · Partner Game

Passage 15: “What Shapes a Society? Place, Resources, and Connection”

How to Play

- 1 First, draw a Place Card.
- 2 Choose one possibility that makes sense for that place.
- 3 Then choose a challenge that might also exist.
- 4 Finally, explain what people might do.
- 5 Correct explanation = 1 point. A second-source connection = bonus point.

With Your Group...

Sample Round

Place: Great Plains

Possibility: farming/ranching or wind energy

Challenge and Choice

Challenge: drought, limited water, strong winds

Choice: conserve water, select crops carefully, build wind turbines



What happened when two groups had similar resources but made different choices?

Yesterday, some of you discovered that the same place could create both an opportunity and a problem.

That matters because geography does not write history by itself.

R = Reason/Way; E1 = Evidence; E2 = Explanation.

This location created an opportunity for trade, but geography alone did not make Mali powerful.

People developed trade networks and exchanged resources with distant communities.

This shows that place creates possibilities while human choices determine how those possibilities are used.

Every fact must earn its place.



Try It On Your Own!

Day 3 · Use (Independent Practice) · Interactive Notebook

①

R; E1 from Passage 15; 2-3 E2 sentences

②

second E1 from Passage 13, The Change Atlas, Evidence Room, or a previous passage; 2-3 E2 sentences

③

at least one paraphrase; source credit; connection to thesis (central idea)

④

Read, cover, tell, write, and check again.

Students independently write Body Paragraph 1.

★ Award & Target!

Day 4 · Award & Target

★ Daily Deck

Award 🏆

“Today we do not simply say whether our paragraph is good or bad.” “We study the exact decisions we made as researchers.”

- Students mark: strongest E1
- strongest E2
- strongest connection to R
- Partners explain why each marked part is strong.

Target 🎯

Students choose one target and revise the exact place in the paragraph where the new work belongs.

Curiosity Questions

What place/resource question do I still have?



Exit Ticket

Day 5 · Educate & Explain to Others

★ Daily Deck

How can a place create both opportunities and challenges for a society?

“My R is ____.”

“My first source taught me ____.”

“My second source added ____.”

“Together, the evidence proves ____.”

Listeners identify the evidence-to-reason connection and ask, “What choice did people make with what the place provided?”



PLACE, CHOICE, PROOF Teacher Table

Small-Group Support

★ Daily Deck

Keep the intellectual work with the student: the teacher may narrow the passage section but does not supply the evidence or explanation.

Reread one relevant Passage 15 paragraph.

Ask students to name only what the place provides or limits.

Ask what people chose to do.

Cover the paragraph and orally retell the idea.

Write the retelling and compare it with the source for copying too closely.

Add source credit.

Complete: “This evidence proves _____ because _____.”



Research Conclusion Challenge

Enrichment · Write in your notebook

Students select two or more approved Passage 15 facts about the same place. They write:

1. a credited
paraphrase of
each fact,

2. one
conclusion the
facts support
together,

3. an explanation of
what geography made
possible or difficult,

4. an
explanation of
the human
choice,

5. a statement of what
the combined evidence
can and cannot prove.

★ 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 set	I can do it
Gather relevant evidence about PLACE.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Tell a quotation from a paraphrase.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Give source credit for Q and P.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Write R-E1-E2.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Explain what two sources prove together.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it



Citizenship Connection

Good Citizens · Our Community & Country

★ What Shapes a Society? Place, Resources, and Connection

“The land did not build Caddo communities by itself. People had to understand the environment and decide how to use what was available.”

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: How can a place create both opportunities and challenges for a society?

LOW

Places can shape societies. Mali had gold. It had trade routes. This helped Mali.

Teacher Note: Facts are relevant but explanation is undeveloped.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: How can a place create both opportunities and challenges for a society?

MEDIUM

One way societies are shaped is by the places and resources available to people. Passage 15 explains that Mali had gold and was near trade routes. This helped merchants exchange goods with other places. The trade helped Mali become wealthier. This shows that location can create opportunities for a society.

Teacher Note: Clear R and E1/E2, but needs multiple sources and deeper synthesis.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: How can a place create both opportunities and challenges for a society?

HIGH

One way societies are shaped is by the places, resources, and connections available to people. Passage 15 explains that Mali was located near valuable gold resources and important trade routes. This meant Mali had something other societies wanted and routes that allowed merchants to reach distant markets. However, gold alone could not create a powerful kingdom; people had to protect, organize, and participate in trade. The Change Atlas also shows that Caddo communities used rivers and forests for farming, travel, and exchange. Together, these examples prove that geography creates possibilities, but people decide how those possibilities will shape a society.

★ This is our target!