

4th Grade — Writing Genre & Response-Type Progression

Teach BIG® Writing Curriculum • The Writing Academy®, LLC • Grade 4

How the writing response grows across the year — from choosing a genre, to short responses, to extended and argumentative writing, to paired-passage synthesis and research.

CLUSTER	RESPONSE TYPE	WRITING GENRE	READING GENRE	WHAT THIS CLUSTER ADDS
Prepare	Genre Selection	Personal Narrative	Narrative	Foundation: identify topic, purpose, and audience, then choose the response genre before drafting.
Cluster 1	SCR	Informative	Nonfiction	The short constructed response — one tight paragraph: Thesis, Evidence, Explanation.
Cluster 2	ECR — Informative	Informative	Nonfiction	Extends to the full multi-paragraph ECR (the TREES tree): thesis + reason branches + evidence.
Cluster 3	ECR — Informative	Informative	Poetry	First full independent TREES response; recognizing relational prompt types and matching evidence with CSI.
Cluster 4	ECR — Argumentative	Opinion / Argumentative	Nonfiction	Takes a defensible position — the CREATURES roadmap (claim through significance).
Cluster 5	ECR — Paired-Passage	Informative	Fiction	Synthesizes evidence across TWO passages — the Evidence Bridge and the RRR conclusion.
Cluster 6	ECR — Correspondence	Correspondence Argumentative	Fiction	Argument in letter form — CREATURES applied to correspondence.
Cluster 7	Poetry & Narrative	Poetry / Narrative	Poetry	Creative genres — narrative and poetry craft (TRAILS / LEAVES).
Cluster 8	Research Paper	Research	Nonfiction (Social Studies)	Capstone: multi-source research synthesis (PLACE / IDEAS / LEGACY / SYNTHESIS).