



THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC



Module 3

Magnifying WHY Reasons into Topic Sentences

Grade 5 • Cluster 3

High Stamina • ECR Poetry and Drama Informative

Tackling TEKS • Reading & Writing

5.11(B)(iv) • 5.11(B)(v) • 5.12(B)(i) • 5.12(B)(ii) • 5.12(B)(iii)



★ Meet Our Week!

Week 3 · High Stamina · Cluster 3 (ECR)

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- Use the three layers: brainstorm, group, and narrow.
- Choose three reasons from separate groups.
- Explain why each reason supports my thesis (central idea).

I Can...

- Brainstorm many reasons connected to a WHY thesis (central idea).
- Group similar reasons into a clear basket or bucket.
- Narrow a group to its strongest reason.
- Write a topic sentence that is different from my other topic sentences.

Passage 1: “Our Rights, Our Voices”

poem

Today you will learn how writers magnify a small starting idea into strong reasons.

The poem says rights protect freedoms and fair laws. The drama shows people asking for a voice in decisions that affect their lives.

Hear ye, hear ye, reasons are near me.

★ 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.

Apply DOT to: laws · rights · representatives · colonists · self-government.

Dot the word. Discover the meaning. Drop the dot.

★ Magnifying Process

Day 1 · Reveal

★ Daily Deck

1

Brainstorm

Brainstorm wide.

2

Group

Group with pride.

3

Narrow

Narrow with care.

4

Choose

Choose the best three.

Brainstorm wide, group with pride, narrow with care, choose the best three.

★ Why Prompt Thinking

Day 1 · Reveal (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

WHY Prompts

WHY prompts ask for reasons, importance, significance, purpose, meaning, or value.

The Two Types of Prompts

WHY means a reason.
HOW means a process or way.

★ Bucket Labels

Day 2 · Attempt

★ Daily Deck

Reason Cards

Steps

- 1 Read each reason carefully.
- 2 Ask yourself, “Does this idea protect people, explain fair laws, or show why people need a voice in decisions?”
- 3 Place it where its meaning belongs.
- 4 Choose one leader from each different bucket so every topic sentence has its own job.

Reason Buckets

Protection and Safety

Rights protect people from unfair treatment.

Fairness in Laws

Fair laws help people live more justly.

Voice and Representation

People need a voice in decisions that affect them.



Talk It Over!

Day 3 · Discuss

★ Daily Deck

Why do “rights protect freedoms” and “homes should be protected” share a basket?

Explain the shared meaning.

Talk through the choice, not just the answer.

A topic sentence should connect to the thesis (central idea) without repeating the thesis (central idea) word for word.

Pause and ask yourself: What does this step help the writer do next?

Student Directions: “Explain why two ideas belong together and why a third idea belongs in another basket.”



What Makes a Reason Strong?

Day 3 · Discuss (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

Choose one leader from each different bucket so every topic sentence has its own job.

**grown from at least
eight choices**

**grouped by
shared meaning**

**precise, not
just true**

Narrowing strengthens focus.

★ Topic-Sentence Check

Day 3 · Use (Independent Practice)

BRAINSTORM

Brainstorm at least eight reasons connected to the thesis (central idea) that fairness and voice are important.

GROUP

Sort them into groups.

NARROW

Narrow each group, then write three topic sentences.

Name one reason, connect to the thesis (central idea), and differ from the other two.

★ Award the Organizer

Day 4 · Award & Target

★ Daily Deck

Award

Draw a Magnifying Master Badge. Star the topic sentence you are proudest of.

What can I already do? I can name one part of the Magnifying process I completed successfully and point to the evidence in my work.

Target

I can brainstorm many WHY reasons, group shared meanings, narrow each group, and write three distinct topic sentences that support my thesis (central idea).

1

Brainstorm

First, I brainstormed.

2

Group

Then I grouped.

3

Narrow

Next I narrowed.

4

Write

Finally, I turned my
best idea into this
topic sentence.

Name a detail, say what it means, and state the impact.



Exit Ticket

★ Daily Deck

Day 5 · Educate & Explain to Others

Prompt: Explain why the poem “Our Rights, Our Voices” and the drama “A Voice of Their Own” show that fairness and voice are important.

1. Write a thesis (central idea). 2. Brainstorm at least eight WHY reasons. 3. Group reasons that share meaning. 4. Narrow each group to one leader. 5. Write three distinct topic sentences. 6. Name one detail from the poem or drama that could support one topic sentence.



Name the Thinking

Small-Group Support

★ Daily Deck

We will slow the process down. First we gather ideas. Then we notice which ideas belong together.

“rights protect freedoms”

“colonists wanted a voice”

“punishments should be fair”

Then we choose the strongest leader from each group.

★ Connect Across Texts

Enrichment

Enrichment: Compare A, “One reason these texts matter is that people want a voice,” with B, “One reason the poem and drama are important is that people need a voice in decisions that affect their lives.”

Answer key: B is stronger because it is more precise and explains why voice matters.

★ My Progress Tracker

This is your very own progress tracker. As you learn this week, color in how you feel about each skill by yourself. Be honest with yourself, because this shows you how much you are growing.

I Can...	Not Yet	Getting Set	I Can Do It
Brainstorm many ideas connected to a thesis (central idea).	Not Yet	Getting Set	I Can Do It
Group similar ideas into baskets.	Not Yet	Getting Set	I Can Do It
Keep one strong idea from each basket.	Not Yet	Getting Set	I Can Do It
Narrow to three distinct, relevant baskets.	Not Yet	Getting Set	I Can Do It
Write topic sentences with different jobs.	Not Yet	Getting Set	I Can Do It

★ Citizenship Connection

★ Protection and Safety · Fairness in Laws · Voice and Representation

The amendments help protect people and freedoms. The people who wrote the rights wanted justice and equal laws. People choose representatives who speak for them.

Reflect & Discuss

Rights protect people from unfair treatment.

Fair laws help people live more justly.

People need a voice in decisions that affect them.

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: Explain why the poem “Our Rights, Our Voices” and the drama “A Voice of Their Own” show that fairness and voice are important.

LOW Level 1

“The texts are important because rights are good and people need a voice.”

What is working: The response names a related idea.

What Needs Improvement: Add a precise reason, a selected detail, and thinking that explains the connection.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: Explain why the poem “Our Rights, Our Voices” and the drama “A Voice of Their Own” show that fairness and voice are important.

MEDIUM Level 2-3

“The poem and drama are important because rights protect people and people want a voice in government.”

What is working: The response begins to make a focused claim.

What Needs Improvement: Make the relationship more precise and show how accurate text evidence proves it.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: Explain why the poem “Our Rights, Our Voices” and the drama “A Voice of Their Own” show that fairness and voice are important.

HIGH Level 4

“The poem “Our Rights, Our Voices” and the drama “A Voice of Their Own” are important because both texts show that people need protection, fair laws, and a voice in decisions. One reason these ideas matter is that rights protect people from unfair treatment. Another reason is that fair laws help communities live more justly. A third reason is that people need a voice in decisions that affect their lives.”

What is working: The response is focused, passage-grounded, and explains the evidence-to-idea connection.

★ **This is our target!**