
THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC

Acronym & Framework Glossary

Grades 3 to 5



34 Entries

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Acronym	Expansion	Category
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TRAILS	Topic, Relationships, Actions / Thoughts / Dialogue, Important Moment, Lesson or Lasting Effect, Setting	Narrative
TREES	Thesis (Central Idea), Reasons or Ways, Evidence, Explanation, Significance	Writing
TWA	The Writing Academy	Organization
UDL	Universal Design for Learning	Instruction

C

CREATURES

Claim, **R**easons, **E**vidence, **A**rgument, **T**hinking, **U**nderstanding Others (Counterargument), **R**ebuttal, **E**nding, **S**ignificance

The argumentative/opinion writing framework. Students take a position (claim), provide reasons supported by evidence, build their argument, address opposing viewpoints (counterargument), respond with a rebuttal, and close with significance.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grade 3 Cluster 6, and argumentative writing across Grades 3 to 5.

CSI

Connects to the prompt, **S**upports the thesis (central idea), can **I**nter more ideas

A tool for selecting the best evidence. Students ask three questions: Does it connect to the prompt? Does it support my thesis (central idea)? Can I infer more ideas from it?

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grades 3 to 5, introduced in Cluster 2 and reinforced through Cluster 5 and beyond.

D

DEEP FACTS

Definition, **E**xample and Illustration, **E**xpert Testimony, **P**rocess / Step-by-Step, **F**acts and Statistics, **A**nalogy, **C**omparison and Contrast, **T**ipping Point (Cause and Effect), **S**tory / Anecdote

Nine types of explanation students can use to develop their evidence. Taught progressively across clusters.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grades 3 to 5, introduced progressively from Cluster 1 through Cluster 8.

DOT

Dot the word, **D**iscover the meaning, **D**rop the dot

A reading habit for vocabulary. Students place a small dot above an unfamiliar word, discover its pronunciation and meaning, then erase the dot once they understand.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grades 3 to 5, every cluster starting from Cluster 1.



ECR

Extended **C**onstructed **R**esponse

A multi-paragraph written response to a text-based prompt. Students read one or more passages and write a complete essay with introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grades 3 to 5, Clusters 2 through 8, and assessment materials.

ELAR

English **L**anguage **A**rts and **R**eadng

The subject area designation used by the Texas Education Agency for language arts standards in Grades K through 12.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

TEKS standards references, scope and sequence documents, all grades.

ELPS

English **L**anguage **P**roficiency **S**tandards

Texas standards that outline the instruction English learners need to participate in academic content. Each module lists the ELPS alongside the TEKS.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grades 3 to 5, every module's standards listing.

ESC

Education **S**ervice **C**enter

One of the 20 regional service centers in Texas that provide training, technical assistance, and resources to school districts.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Professional development references, ordering information, all grades.



GET SET

Statement of Purpose, **E**videntiary Transition, **T**hesis (Central Idea)

The framework for building an ECR introduction paragraph. The Statement of Purpose (blue) opens with a broad idea. The Evidentiary Transition (yellow) bridges to the evidence. The Thesis (Central Idea) (green) states the specific answer.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grades 3 to 5, Cluster 4 Modules 3 and 4, and reinforced in later clusters.

GRADUATE

Gather, **R**eveal, **A**tttempt, **D**iscuss, **U**se, **A**ward, **T**arget, **E**xplain

The Infinity Learning Cycle that structures five-day review lessons at the end of every module. The cycle is recursive, returning to strengthen retention over time.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grades 3 to 5, every module (the five-day GRADUATE lesson, Section 50).



HABITS

Habitual **A**ctions **B**uild **I**ndependent **T**hinkers

The guiding philosophy behind every named strategy in The Writing Academy. The materials build habitual, repeatable actions that students internalize and apply independently.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grades 3 to 5, referenced across all materials, workbooks, and lesson plans.



IMRA

Instructional **M**aterials **R**everview and **A**pproval

The Texas Education Agency process through which instructional materials are reviewed, evaluated, and approved for adoption by Texas school districts.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

The IMRA review website, course overview, and rubric alignment documents.

ISBN

International **S**tandard **B**ook **N**umber

A unique numeric identifier assigned to each edition of a publication.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Ordering pages, product listings, all grades.



LEAVES

Lines and **L**ayout, **E**motion and **E**xperience, **A**rtistic **L**anguage, **V**oice, **E**cho and **S**ound, **S**ignificance

The poetry-reading framework. Students examine a poem through six lenses. "TRAILS helps us read a story. LEAVES helps us read a poem."

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grade 3 Cluster 7 (poetry), and poetry units across Grades 4 and 5.

M

MICE

My Inference = **C**onnections I have + **E**vidence I have found

The formula for building a significance sentence, the final sentence of each body paragraph.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grades 3 to 5, Cluster 4 Modules 1 and 2, and reinforced in later clusters.

MTSS

Multi-Tiered **S**ystem of **S**upports

An educational framework that provides varying levels of support (Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3) based on student needs. The Writing Academy is designed as a Tier 1 supplemental support.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Implementation guides, research articles, course overview.

O

OnRAMP

Recognize **A**nd **M**ap **P**rogress

The assessment and progress-monitoring framework that connects instruction to the five Thinking Levels. OnRAMP helps teachers recognize where each student is and map what comes next.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Research articles, assessment materials, teacher guides, Grades 3 to 5.

P

PLD

Performance **L**evel **D**escriptors

TEA-published descriptions of what students at each performance level should know and be able to do for each assessed standard.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Assessment references, TEKS Companion app, all grades.



Q / P

Quotation / Paraphrase

The two ways students can use source material in a research paper. A Quotation uses the author's exact words. A Paraphrase restates the idea in the student's own words. Both require source credit.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grade 3 Cluster 8 (research capstone), and research writing in Grades 4 and 5.



R1-R2-R3 (RRR)

R1 Restate, **R2** Reference the evidence collectively, **R3** Reflect

The three-sentence conclusion framework. Students restate their thesis (central idea), reference the evidence as a whole, and reflect on why the topic matters.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grades 3 to 5, Cluster 5 Module 3, Cluster 8, and all conclusion writing.

READ

Rearrange, Exchange, Add, Delete

The four revision moves. Rearrange (move words to a clearer order), Exchange (swap a weak word for a stronger one), Add (add a detail), Delete (remove unnecessary text). Students label each revision R, E, A, or D.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grades 3 to 5, every module's revision and editing section.

RLA

Reading Language Arts

A common abbreviation for the Reading Language Arts subject area. The Writing Academy is a supplemental RLA support with a writing focus.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Course overview, implementation guides, all grades.

RPLD

Range Performance Level Descriptors

TEA's expanded descriptors that break each TEKS standard into a skills continuum across four performance levels. In The Writing Academy, the term also connects to the five Thinking Levels used in OnRAMP.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

TEKS Companion app, assessment materials, teacher guides, all grades.



SCR

Short **C**onstructed **R**esponse

A brief written response to a text-based question, typically a few sentences with evidence-supported answers.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grades 3 to 5, Cluster 1, and assessment materials across all grades.



TEA

Texas **E**ducation **A**gency

The state agency that oversees public education in Texas, including setting standards (TEKS), administering assessments, and conducting the IMRA process.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Standards references, IMRA documentation, all grades.

TEKS

Texas **E**ssential **K**nowledge and **S**kills

The state standards that define what students should know and be able to do at each grade level in Texas. Every module lists the specific TEKS it addresses.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grades 3 to 5, every module, scope and sequence, assessment materials.

Thinking Levels

Foundational, Emergent, Visible, Independent, Reflective

Five performance levels describing where a student's thinking falls. Each has a color and symbol: Foundational (red circle), Emergent (orange square), Visible (yellow inverted triangle), Independent (green triangle), Reflective (blue diamond). Used in OnRAMP and connected to RPLDs.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grades 3 to 5, workbooks, teacher guides, assessment trackers.

Three Shapes

Circle (Topic / Noun), Box (Charge / Verb), Triangle (Clue Word)

A prompt-analysis HABIT. Students draw a red circle around the topic (noun), a yellow box around the charge (verb), and a green triangle around the clue word (WHY or HOW).

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grades 3 to 5, introduced in Cluster 2, used through Cluster 6.

TLP

Teacher Lesson Plans

The detailed lesson plan documents that guide teachers through each module day by day, including scripted instruction, slide references, and TEKS/ELPS alignment.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grades 3 to 5, every cluster.

TRACKS

Time, Reactions, Actions, Character / Concept / Creature, Key Knowledge, Scenery / Setting

A reading-annotation HABIT with six categories for marking evidence in a passage using pastel colors. "TRACKS marks the evidence in the passage; the shapes are used only to analyze the prompt."

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grades 3 to 5, every cluster, every module.

TRAILS

Topic, Relationships, Actions / Thoughts / Dialogue, Important Moment, Lesson or Lasting Effect, Setting

The narrative planning framework. "TRAILS helps us read a story. LEAVES helps us read a poem."

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grades 3 to 5, narrative writing units.

TREES

Thesis (Central Idea), Reasons or Ways, Evidence, Explanation, Significance

The primary framework for writing an Extended Constructed Response (ECR). Each letter corresponds to one part of a complete ECR paragraph.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Grades 3 to 5, Cluster 3 and all ECR writing through Cluster 8.

TWA

The Writing Academy

The abbreviation for The Writing Academy, LLC, used throughout materials and URLs.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

All materials, website URLs, product labels.



UDL

Universal Design for Learning

A framework from CAST that guides instructional design to be accessible to all learners through multiple means of engagement, representation, and action/expression.

WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT

Implementation guides, research articles, content-language support pages.