

The Two Types of Prompts

WHY asks for reasons something happened or was needed.

HOW asks for a way something happened or how a problem was solved.

Ask: *Does this prompt need a reason, or a way something happened?*

Watch Me!

Prompt: Explain why missions and presidios helped Spain maintain control in early Texas. I see the word 'why.' That tells me I need a reason. I circle 'missions and presidios' as the Noun of Importance, box 'helped maintain control' as the Verb of Importance, and triangle 'why' as the clue word.

Modeled Thesis (Central Idea): Missions and presidios helped Spain maintain control in early Texas because missions spread Spanish customs and Catholicism while presidios protected missions and settlements.

Point out how the thesis (central idea) answers **WHY** with reasons from the informational passage.

★ Spin and Shape Showdown! (continued)

Day 2 · Attempt · Partner Game

★ Daily Deck

Passages: “A Harvest to Remember” & “Spanish Rule in Early Texas”

How to Play

- 10 Possible thesis (central idea): Squanto helped the Pilgrims prepare for a productive harvest by teaching them to grow crops, catch fish, and find food in the area.
Check: States how Squanto helped.
- 11 Check the thesis (central idea) against the prompt.
Check: Correct thesis (central idea): move 2 spaces!
- 12 Switch roles and play another turn.
Check: Both partners shape and write.

Sample Prompt Card

Prompt Card · HOW

“Explain how Squanto helped the Pilgrims prepare for a productive harvest.”

shape it

Thesis (Central Idea)

“Squanto helped the Pilgrims prepare for a productive harvest by teaching them to grow crops, catch fish, and find food in the area.”



Exit Ticket

Day 5 · Transfer

★ Daily Deck

Student-Friendly Target: I can shape a WHY prompt and write a clear thesis (central idea).

Prompt: Explain why presidios helped Spain maintain control in early Texas.

Directions: Read this excerpt from "Spanish Rule in Early Texas": "Their purpose was to serve as a protective force for the missions and nearby settlements. Soldiers guarded the area and helped keep control of the land." Then circle the important nouns, box the important verb, and triangle the clue word in the prompt.

1. Selected response. This prompt asks for: [] REASONS (WHY) [] A WAY (HOW) (2 points)
2. Constructed response. In one sentence, explain why presidios helped Spain maintain control in early Texas: (4 points)
3. Underline the reason in your thesis (central idea). (2 points)
4. Transfer / application. Name the detail in the excerpt that BEST shows why people needed a solution: (2 points)

Total Score: _____ / 10

★ My Progress Tracker

Directions: This tracker is for YOU. As you practice shaping prompts and writing theses (central ideas), look at each skill below. If you can do it all by yourself without help, check the box that matches how you feel. Be honest with yourself. This helps you see your growth.

I Can...	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Circle important nouns, box the important verb, and triangle WHY or HOW.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Tell whether a prompt asks for reasons or a way something happened.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Explain the difference between WHY and HOW.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Identify the problem or conflict in the text.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Write a thesis (central idea) that answers WHY with a reason.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Write a thesis (central idea) that answers HOW with a way something happened.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Add evidence that supports my thesis (central idea).	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Explain how my evidence proves my thinking.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Revise my thesis (central idea) to make it clear and complete.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!