

THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC
A TRUE SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT SYSTEM

Core Curriculum Connection Activities

GRADE 4 • CLUSTER 1

Grade 4, Cluster 1. Four activities, one per module, showing how the Teach BIG Short Constructed Response ladder plugs straight into the Bluebonnet core the state already gives your district. Run it either way, from their content or from ours.

CORE CURRICULUM CONNECTION ACTIVITY

THE CORE READING

The Middle Ages

Bluebonnet Grade 4 Knowledge Unit

THE WRITING

Cluster 1 • Module 1 • Building a Thesis with Evidence

Teach BIG™ Grade 4 • Informational Short Constructed Response

WHAT YOUR CLASS ALREADY KNOWS

Your students have studied the Middle Ages in Bluebonnet. They can describe knights, castles, and kings, and how power and daily life worked in medieval times.

THE WRITING WE ADD

Cluster 1 builds the Short Constructed Response. Module 1 teaches students to write a clear thesis, add one piece of exact evidence, and explain what the evidence proves.

TWO WAYS TO RUN IT, TEACHER'S CHOICE

USING BLUEBONNET CORE CONTENT

Have students write a short response from the Bluebonnet Middle Ages reading, a thesis with one piece of evidence and an explanation.

USING THE WRITING ACADEMY SUPPLEMENTAL CONTENT

Or use our Cluster 1 passage, A Promise Written Long Ago, to build the same response from our content.

A FIVE MINUTE BRIDGE

Give students a prompt. Ask them to write the thesis and one evidence sentence. In five minutes they will have the start of a short response.

CORE CURRICULUM CONNECTION ACTIVITY

THE CORE READING

American Revolution

Bluebonnet Grade 4 Knowledge Unit

THE WRITING

Cluster 1 • Module 2 • Build a Strong Thesis (Central Idea)

Teach BIG™ Grade 4 • Informational Short Constructed Response

WHAT YOUR CLASS ALREADY KNOWS

Your students have studied the American Revolution in Bluebonnet. They know why the colonists sought independence and how a new nation began.

THE WRITING WE ADD

Module 2 focuses on the thesis. Students write a central idea that clearly answers the prompt and sets up the rest of the response.

TWO WAYS TO RUN IT, TEACHER'S CHOICE

USING BLUEBONNET CORE CONTENT

Have students write a central idea sentence from the Bluebonnet American Revolution reading.

USING THE WRITING ACADEMY SUPPLEMENTAL CONTENT

Or use our Cluster 1 passage and the thesis frame to build the same sentence from our content.

A FIVE MINUTE BRIDGE

Ask each student to answer a prompt in one clear sentence. In five minutes they will have a thesis a reader cannot miss.

CORE CURRICULUM CONNECTION ACTIVITY

THE CORE READING

Geology

Bluebonnet Grade 4 Knowledge Unit

THE WRITING

Cluster 1 • Module 3 • Prove It with Strong Evidence

Teach BIG™ Grade 4 • Informational Short
Constructed Response

WHAT YOUR CLASS ALREADY KNOWS

Your students have studied geology in Bluebonnet. They can explain how rocks form and how the earth changes over time, and they have many science facts ready to use.

THE WRITING WE ADD

Module 3 is about evidence. Students choose strong text evidence that connects to the thesis, not just any detail.

TWO WAYS TO RUN IT, TEACHER'S CHOICE

USING BLUEBONNET CORE CONTENT

Have students pick the two strongest details from the Bluebonnet Geology reading for a given idea.

USING THE WRITING ACADEMY SUPPLEMENTAL CONTENT

Or use our Cluster 1 passage to choose strong evidence from our content.

A FIVE MINUTE BRIDGE

Read one paragraph together. Ask students to find two details that prove the idea, then say which is stronger and why. In five minutes they will choose evidence on purpose.

CORE CURRICULUM CONNECTION ACTIVITY

THE CORE READING

Innovation and Industry in Energy

Bluebonnet Grade 4 Knowledge Unit

THE WRITING

Cluster 1 • Module 4 • Make the Evidence Mean Something

Teach BIG™ Grade 4 • Informational Short Constructed Response

WHAT YOUR CLASS ALREADY KNOWS

Your students have studied energy and industry in Bluebonnet. They can explain where energy comes from and how it powers the world around them.

THE WRITING WE ADD

Module 4 completes the response. Students write the explanation sentence that tells what the evidence proves and why it matters.

TWO WAYS TO RUN IT, TEACHER'S CHOICE

USING BLUEBONNET CORE CONTENT

Have students add an explanation sentence to a fact from the Bluebonnet Energy reading.

USING THE WRITING ACADEMY SUPPLEMENTAL CONTENT

Or use our Cluster 1 passage to explain the evidence from our content.

A FIVE MINUTE BRIDGE

Give students a thesis and one piece of evidence. Ask them to add a sentence that begins with This shows that. In five minutes they will finish a short response.