

FAMILY PACKET

Family Packet, Grade 3, Cluster 1, Module 2: Writing a Thesis (central idea)

This packet gives your family a short, friendly view of this week's learning. Read it together, talk about the new words, and ask your student to teach the thinking tool aloud.

Every page is written for families.

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Ask your student to teach you what they learned. Explaining it aloud helps the learning stick.

Inside this packet

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New words with meanings and examples.

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The tool your student uses.

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1 Family Letter

Dear Families,

This week your student is learning to write a thesis (central idea), the sentence that directly answers a short constructed response prompt. The three pieces are TOPIC, CHARGE, and ANSWER. The topic and charge come from the prompt, and the answer comes from the reading. A WHAT prompt needs facts or details, a WHY prompt needs reasons with because, and a Relational HOW prompt needs a connection with a preposition such as through. We will read *The Pilgrims Chose Plymouth* and *Life Along the Nile River*. Ask your student to teach you the three pieces and explain how a sentence fits its prompt.

With appreciation,

[Classroom teacher signature]

The Writing Academy, LLC

ASK FOR A DEMONSTRATION

Ask your student to teach the tool and explain why it works.

2 Family Tip Sheet

The skill in plain words

Build a thesis (central idea) that directly answers a WHAT, WHY, or Relational HOW prompt using TOPIC, CHARGE, and ANSWER.

The standard in plain words

Your student plans a clear central idea and matches the sentence to the prompt. This connects to 3.11A(i), 3.12B(i), 3.12B(ii), and 3.12B(iii).

How to help without giving the answer

- Ask your student to explain the tool in their own words.
- Ask for a reason and proof from the text or work.
- Listen first. Let your student make the writing decisions.
- If your student is stuck, ask which part of the tool could help.

thesis (central idea)

a sentence that answers the exact prompt

Example. The thesis answers why they chose Plymouth.

topic

who or what the question is about

Example. The topic can be the Pilgrims.

charge

the action the prompt asks for

Example. The charge can be to explain why.

answer

the idea the reading provides

Example. The answer can include water and soil.

WHAT

a question that asks for facts or details

Example. What resources helped them settle?

WHY

a question that asks for reasons

Example. Why did they live near the river?

Relational HOW

a question that asks for connections

Example. How did water connect both lives?

Reading tip. Pause at a new word and use the sentence to make a guess before explaining the meaning.

4 Our Thinking Tool

The Three Pieces to a Thesis are TOPIC, CHARGE, and ANSWER. Match the sentence shape to the prompt. WHAT uses facts, WHY uses because and reasons, and Relational HOW uses a preposition to show a connection.

Mini version to use at home

Try it together

Read this week's question or task. Ask your student to name the topic, the action, and the information they need to use.

Family prompt. The student should explain how each part of the tool helps answer the task.

TRACKS In informational texts, TRACKS can help find details. It means Time, Reactions, Actions, Character or Concept, Key Knowledge, and Scenery or Setting.

5 Conversation Starters and a Simple Family Activity

- What are the three pieces to a thesis?
- Which pieces come from the prompt?
- How is a WHAT thesis different from a WHY thesis?
- How did water connect life in both passages?

Build a Thesis

Ask a WHAT, WHY, or HOW question about the day. Name the topic, charge, and answer, then say a matching thesis.

Question Type at Dinner

Take turns asking WHAT, WHY, and Relational HOW questions. Explain whether the answer needs facts, reasons, or connections.

6 What Strong Work Looks Like

This model shows the decisions a writer should make.

Prompt. Why did people live near the Nile River?

Strong work

People lived near the Nile River because it provided water, food, rich soil, and transportation.

Checklist for strong work

- ☐ name TOPIC, CHARGE, and ANSWER
- ☐ use reading information for the answer
- ☐ match the thesis to WHAT, WHY, or HOW
- ☐ use because for a WHY thesis
- ☐ write one clear central idea

7 Progress at Home

My student can...

- ☐ name TOPIC, CHARGE, and ANSWER
- ☐ use reading information for the answer
- ☐ match the thesis to WHAT, WHY, or HOW
- ☐ use because for a WHY thesis
- ☐ write one clear central idea

Student name

Family signature

Date

Please sign and send this page back to school with your student.