

FAMILY PACKET

Family Packet, Grade 3, Cluster 1, Module 3: Understanding and Selecting Strong Evidence

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

1 Family Letter

A note from the classroom about this week's learning.

2 Family Tip Sheet

The skill and standard in plain words.

3 Key Words

New words with meanings and examples.

4 Our Thinking Tool

The tool your student uses.

5 Conversation Starters and a Family Activity

Simple questions and activities.

6 What Strong Work Looks Like

A short model and a checklist.

7 Progress at Home

A checklist to sign and return.

1 Family Letter

Dear Families,

This week your student is learning to select strong evidence for a short constructed response. Evidence is proof from the passage that supports an answer. It is not an opinion, a random detail, or a sentence copied without a reason. Students use the CSI HABIT, Connects to the prompt, Supports the thesis (central idea), and helps Infer additional ideas. They practice signal markers such as The text states, followed by a comma and quotation marks around exact passage words. Ask your student to explain what evidence is and what makes it strong.

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

Select passage evidence that connects to the prompt, supports the thesis (central idea), and helps infer more. Introduce an exact quote with a signal marker, comma, and quotation marks.

The standard in plain words

Your student selects purposeful evidence and writes a quoted evidence sentence. This connects to 3.11A, 3.12B, and 3.7C.

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.

evidence

proof from the passage that supports an answer

Example. The evidence comes from the text.

CSI

Connects, Supports, Infer

Example. CSI checks whether the evidence works.

signal marker

words that introduce a quote

Example. The text states introduces the exact words.

quote

exact words from a passage

Example. The quote uses quotation marks.

support

to back an idea with proof

Example. The evidence supports the thesis.

infer

to understand an idea that is not stated directly

Example. The evidence lets you infer a reason.

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

4 Our Thinking Tool

CSI means Connects to the prompt, Supports the thesis (central idea), and helps Infer more ideas. Build the sentence with a signal marker, comma, and exact quoted evidence.

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 is evidence and what is not evidence?
- What do the three CSI words mean?
- Why might a true sentence be weak evidence for a thesis?
- What does a signal marker do before a quote?

Evidence Detective

Share one fact and one opinion from a book or show. Explain which one could be evidence and why.

CSI at Dinner

Make a claim about the day and give one fact that connects, supports, and helps someone infer more.

6 What Strong Work Looks Like

This model shows the decisions a writer should make.

Prompt. Why did the Pilgrims choose Plymouth?

Strong work

The text states, “The harbor gave the ship a safe place to anchor.” This evidence connects to the prompt and supports the idea that a safe harbor helped the Pilgrims settle there.

Checklist for strong work

- ☐ choose proof from the passage
- ☐ connect evidence to the prompt
- ☐ show how evidence supports the thesis
- ☐ use a signal marker and comma
- ☐ use quotation marks around exact words

7 Progress at Home

My student can...

- ☐ choose proof from the passage
- ☐ connect evidence to the prompt
- ☐ show how evidence supports the thesis
- ☐ use a signal marker and comma
- ☐ use quotation marks around exact words

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Student name

.....
Family signature

.....
Date

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