

FAMILY PACKET

Family Packet, Grade 3, Cluster 1, Module 4: Explaining Evidence / Build the Full SCR Ladder

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 how to explain evidence in a short constructed response. After writers give evidence from a passage, they explain what the evidence means or why it matters. This helps the reader understand how the evidence supports the thesis (central idea). Students practice Definition starters such as This means and This shows, and Story or Anecdote starters such as This reminds me of and This makes me think. The word this points back to the evidence sentence right before it. Ask your student to teach you how thesis, evidence, and explanation work together.

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

Write an explanation after evidence that tells what it means, why it matters, or how it proves the thesis (central idea). Build the full SCR ladder with thesis, evidence, and explanation.

The standard in plain words

Your student connects a clear central idea, purposeful evidence, and an explanation. 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.

3 Key Words

explanation

a sentence that says what the evidence means

Example. The explanation connects the proof to the idea.

definition

an explanation that clarifies meaning

Example. This shows that the harbor was useful.

story or anecdote

a connection to an experience or situation

Example. This reminds me of a flood.

SCR ladder

thesis, evidence, and explanation

Example. Each rung has a job.

connect

to show how two ideas relate

Example. The explanation connects proof and thesis.

matter

to have value for the main idea

Example. The evidence matters because it proves the reason.

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

4 Our Thinking Tool

The full SCR ladder has three rungs. Thesis (central idea) answers the prompt. Evidence gives exact proof. Explanation tells what the proof means and how it supports the thesis. Definition and Story/Anecdote are approved explanation paths.

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 does an explanation sentence do?
- How is explanation different from evidence?
- What can This means or This shows introduce?
- What does the word this point back to?

Explain the Detail

Share one detail from a book or show. Explain what it means with This means or This shows.

Build the Ladder

Share a thesis, evidence, and explanation. Listen for how the explanation helps the evidence support the thesis.

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 and rich soil. The text states, “The river left dark soil after the flood.” This shows that the Nile helped farmers grow food, so people could build their lives nearby.

Checklist for strong work

- ☐ write a thesis that answers the prompt
- ☐ choose evidence from the passage
- ☐ explain what the evidence means
- ☐ use this to point back to evidence
- ☐ connect all three SCR rungs

7 Progress at Home

My student can...

- ☐ write a thesis that answers the prompt
- ☐ choose evidence from the passage
- ☐ explain what the evidence means
- ☐ use this to point back to evidence
- ☐ connect all three SCR rungs

Student name

Family signature

Date

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