

FAMILY PACKET

Family Packet, Grade 4, Cluster 1, Module 3: Prove It with Strong Evidence

A warm, plain language guide to what your student is learning this week, with easy ways to talk and work together at home. **Every page is in English and Spanish.**

Welcome, families. This week your student continues Cluster 1 with Module 3, "Prove It with Strong Evidence." The big idea is that a quote is not automatically strong evidence. Your student is learning the CSI test, strong evidence must Connect to the prompt, Support the thesis, the central idea, and let the writer Infer something meaningful. We are reading "A Promise Written Long Ago," about the Magna Carta, and "Morning in the Village," about a day in a Caddo community, at a longer, more detailed level. This packet shows you what is happening in class, the words your student is learning, the thinking tool your student uses, and simple ways to help from home. You and your student can work through it together in about ten minutes.

Ask your student to teach you what they learned. Teaching it out loud is part of how the learning sticks.

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En español

Todo este paquete también está disponible en español.

1 Family Letter

Dear Families,

This week your student continues Cluster 1 with Module 3, "Prove It with Strong Evidence." The big idea is that a quote is not automatically strong evidence. Your student is learning the CSI test, strong evidence must Connect to the prompt, Support the thesis, the central idea, and let the writer Infer something meaningful.

We are reading "A Promise Written Long Ago," about the Magna Carta, and "Morning in the Village," about a day in a Caddo community, at a longer, more detailed level. Students also learn to announce a quote with a signal phrase, such as the text says, and quotation marks.

Please try this at home. When your student shares an opinion, ask, What exactly showed you that? Choosing the strongest proof, not just any detail, is the evidence habit we practice this week.

With appreciation,

[Classroom teacher signature]

The Writing Academy, LLC

ASK FOR A DEMONSTRATION

Ask your student to teach you the CSI test. If your student can say what C, S, and I stand for, the skill is sticking.

2 Family Tip Sheet

The skill, in plain words

Your student is learning that quoting is not enough, the quote must be the right quote for the job. Students run the CSI test on a quote before using it. A strong quote connects to the prompt, supports the thesis, the central idea, and lets the writer infer something meaningful. A quote is not automatically strong evidence.

The standard, in plain words

The work connects to the Texas standards for informational writing. Your student composes informational responses with a clear central idea, using genre characteristics and craft. In plain words, your student learns to choose the exact words that prove an idea instead of grabbing the first quote they notice.

The CSI test your student uses

Letter	Question
C Connect	Does the quote connect to the prompt?
S Support	Does the quote support the thesis, the central idea?
I Infer	Can the quote help us infer something important?

How to help without giving the answer

- Ask your student to teach you the CSI test. Explaining it out loud is part of how the skill sticks.
- Ask what exactly showed the idea. Let your student name the exact words.
- Ask whether the quote proves the idea or only names an event.
- If your student is stuck, ask about the prompt first. Ask what the quote needs to prove.
- Let your student write the answer. Your job is to ask good questions, not to supply the answer.

3 Key Words

prompt

the question or task a writer is asked to answer

Example, I analyze the prompt before I write.

evidence

exact words from the text in quotation marks

Example, my evidence is a short quote from the passage.

support

to back up an idea with proof

Example, this quote supports my thesis.

connect

to link the quote to the prompt

Example, this quote connects to the prompt.

infer

to figure out something using clues

Example, from this quote I infer that power was limited.

signal phrase

words that announce a quote

Example, the text says is a signal phrase.

citation

showing where the words came from

Example, I cite the text by naming the passage.

explanation

thinking about what the evidence means

Example, my explanation shows what the quote proves.

thesis (central idea)

the clear main idea a response will prove

Example, my thesis is that the Magna Carta limited the king's power.

relevance

how closely something fits the point

Example, this quote's relevance is high because it proves the idea.

quote

the exact words from a text

Example, my quote matches the passage exactly.

weak

not strong or convincing

Example, weak evidence does not prove the idea.

Tip for reading together. When a new word appears in a passage, pause and let your student use the sentence around it to figure out the meaning before you explain. Naming the guess out loud builds confidence.

4 Our Thinking Tool

This week your student uses the CSI test and the signal phrase rules. The CSI test decides whether a quote is strong enough, and the signal phrase announces it clearly.

The CSI evidence test

Letter	Question	A strong quote...
C Connect	Does the quote connect to the prompt?	Matches the topic of the prompt.
S Support	Does the quote support the thesis?	Proves the idea, not just a general fact.
I Infer	Can the quote help us infer something important?	Lets the writer explain a bigger idea.

Signal phrases and quotation rules

Move	Example
Signal phrase	The text says, "..."
Exact words	"The king had to follow the law"
Quotation marks	Open and close the quote.
Explanation	This proves the thesis because...

Mini version to use at home

Try it together

Read this claim, the Magna Carta was important. Ask your student to run CSI on a quote and choose one that proves the idea.

Answer for families. One strong quote could be, "It said that the king had to follow the law, just like everyone else." It connects to the prompt, supports the thesis, and lets the writer infer that power was limited.

CSI A quote is not automatically strong evidence. Run the test, **Connect, Support, Infer**, before you use it.

5 Conversation Starters and a Simple Family Activity

- Ask what the difference is between evidence and a summary.
- Ask what CSI stands for, and how it helps choose a quote.
- Ask why one quote is sometimes stronger than another.
- Ask what a signal phrase is, and why writers use one.

Prove It with Exact Words

Make a claim about your day, such as, dinner was a team effort. Then prove it with one exact detail. Ask your student to do the same, a claim, then exact proof.

Strong or Weak?

Give a claim, then two possible proofs, one that fits and one that is off-topic. Have your student pick the stronger proof and explain why with because.

6 What Strong Work Looks Like

Here is a strong answer to this week's writing task. Each piece has its own job.

Prompt. Why was the Magna Carta important?

Thesis (central idea)

The Magna Carta was important because it limited the king's power and protected fair treatment under the law.

Evidence

The text says, "It said that the king had to follow the law, just like everyone else."

Explanation

This proves the thesis because the quote shows that even a king had to obey rules, so power was limited.

Checklist for strong work

- ☐ The student can tell evidence from a summary.
- ☐ The quote passes CSI, it connects, supports, and lets the writer infer.
- ☐ The quote is the strongest proof for the thesis, not any detail.
- ☐ The quote is announced with a signal phrase and quotation marks.
- ☐ The explanation tells what the evidence means.

7 Progress at Home

My student can...

- ☐ tell evidence from a summary
- ☐ run the CSI test on a quote
- ☐ choose the strongest quote to prove a thesis
- ☐ announce a quote with a signal phrase and quotation marks
- ☐ explain what the evidence means
- ☐ check the evidence sentence for conventions

Student name

Family signature

Date

Please sign and send this page back to school with your student. The teacher will celebrate the progress together with your student.