

FAMILY PACKET

Family Packet, Grade 5, Cluster 1, Module 3: Using Evidence to Support Thinking

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 learns that not every sentence copied from a text is strong evidence. Strong evidence must pass CSI: it must Connect to the question, Support the thesis (central idea), and help the writer Infer additional ideas. Students also learn to introduce a quote with a signal marker and to punctuate it correctly.

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 learns that not every sentence copied from a text is strong evidence. Strong evidence must pass CSI: it must Connect to the question, Support the thesis (central idea), and help the writer Infer additional ideas.

Students also learn to introduce a quote with a signal marker, such as "The text states," and to punctuate the quote correctly. We are reading "From Tension to Revolution" and "The Ocean Lesson." Your student will choose exact quotes from these texts and test each one with CSI.

Ask your student to prove an idea with a short, exact quote and then check it three ways: Does it Connect? Does it Support? Does it help you Infer more?

With appreciation,

[Classroom teacher signature]

The Writing Academy, LLC

ASK FOR A DEMONSTRATION

Ask your student to show you CSI and explain each letter. If your student can teach it, the skill is sticking.

2 Family Tip Sheet

The skill, in plain words

Your student is learning to choose, test, and introduce evidence that connects to the prompt and supports a thesis (central idea). Students use CSI to test evidence and signal markers to introduce quotes.

The standard, in plain words

This week the work connects to Texas standards. Your student composes informational texts with a clear central idea. Your student also uses craft to introduce and present evidence. In plain words, your student learns to choose strong proof and present it clearly.

The CSI test your student uses



C (Connect)

Does the quote answer the question?



S (Support)

Does the proof strengthen the thesis?



I (Infer)

What more can the reader figure out?

How to help without giving the answer

- Ask your student to teach you CSI. Explaining it out loud is part of how the skill sticks.
- Ask your student to show you a signal marker and explain how it introduces a quote.
- Ask what the evidence proves. Let your student explain the connection.
- If your student is stuck, ask about the quote. Ask what it means.
- Let your student write. Your job is to ask good questions, not to supply the answer.

3 Key Words

evidence

specific proof taken from the passage

Example, my evidence is from the passage.

support

to strengthen an idea with relevant proof

Example, this proof supports the thesis.

infer

to form a supported idea from evidence and reasoning

Example, I can infer that the colonists wanted rights.

signal marker

a word or phrase that alerts the reader that evidence is coming

Example, my signal marker is "The text states."

thesis (central idea)

the sentence that gives the writer's direct answer

Example, my thesis answers the prompt.

explanation

the writer's interpretation of what the evidence proves

Example, my explanation shows what the evidence means.

relevant

directly connected to the prompt, thesis, or idea being proved

Example, this evidence is relevant because it proves the point.

proof

something that shows an idea is true

Example, my proof is the exact quote.

choose

to pick one option over another

Example, I choose the quote that proves the point.

strong

powerful and clear

Example, this evidence is strong because it connects.

weak

not powerful or not clear

Example, this evidence is weak because it does not connect.

exact

correct in every detail

Example, my exact quote is from the passage.

quote

the exact words copied from a text

Example, my quote has quotation marks.

Tip for reading together. When your student makes a claim, ask for a short, exact quote and then check it with CSI. This builds the evidence habit.

4 Our Thinking Tool

This week your student uses CSI to test evidence and signal markers to introduce quotes. Evidence is what the text says. Explanation is what the writer says about what the text means.

The CSI test



C (Connect)

Does the quote answer the question?



S (Support)

Does the proof strengthen the thesis?



I (Infer)

What more can the reader figure out?

How to introduce a quote

Part	Job	Example
Signal marker	Alerts the reader that proof is coming	The text states,
Comma	Separates the signal from the quote	The text states, "..."
Quotation marks	Shows the exact words from the passage	"It was unfair to be taxed without a voice..."

Mini version to use at home

Try it together

Read this evidence from class, *"They argued that it was unfair to be taxed without a voice..."* Have your student test it with CSI and introduce it with a signal marker.

Answer for families. C: Connects to why colonists protested. S: Supports the thesis that colonists were treated unfairly. I: We can infer they wanted rights and representation. Signal marker: The text states, "They argued that it was unfair to be taxed without a voice..."

TRACKS While reading, students also look for evidence in the passage using TRACKS, which stands for **Time, Reactions, Actions, Character or Concept, Key Knowledge, and Scenery or Setting**. Ask your student what TRACKS they found in this week's passages.

5 Conversation Starters and a Simple Family Activity

- Ask what the difference is between evidence and a personal opinion.
- Ask why not every accurate quote is strong evidence.
- Ask which quote best shows why the colonists protested.
- Ask which quote best shows how orcas learn to survive.
- Ask how a signal marker helps the reader know proof is coming.

Prove It with CSI

Make a claim about a show, a game, or a book. Take turns finding one piece of proof and checking it three ways: Does it Connect? Does it Support? Does it help you Infer more?

Signal the Quote

Practice introducing proof with a signal marker. Say, "The text states," or "The author says," before the exact words.

6 What Strong Work Looks Like

Here is a strong evidence sentence with a signal marker and CSI explanation. Each part has its own job.

Prompt. Why did colonists protest British laws?

Thesis (central idea)

The colonists protested British laws because they were treated unfairly.

Evidence

The text states, "They argued that it was unfair to be taxed without a voice..."

Explanation

This shows that the colonists believed British rule was unfair and wanted their rights respected.

Checklist for strong work

- ☐ The evidence is a short, exact quote from the passage.
- ☐ The quote is introduced with a signal marker and a comma.
- ☐ The quote is tested with CSI: Connect, Support, Infer.
- ☐ The explanation tells what the evidence means.
- ☐ The evidence is relevant to the prompt and thesis.

7 Progress at Home

My student can...

- ☐ choose, test, and introduce evidence that connects to the prompt
- ☐ tell the difference between evidence and opinion
- ☐ test a quote with CSI: Connect, Support, Infer
- ☐ introduce a quote with a signal marker
- ☐ punctuate a quote correctly

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.