

FAMILY PACKET

Family Packet, Grade 5, Cluster 3, Module 4: Proving Reasons with Evidence and Explanation

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 is learning to prove a reason with quoted evidence and explanation. Students use CSI to choose a quotation that connects directly, supports the reason, and is important enough to prove it. Then they introduce the quote with a signal marker and begin the explanation with "This means," "This shows," or "This proves." 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.

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 is learning to prove a reason with quoted evidence and explanation. Students will read the poem "Our Rights, Our Voices" and the drama "A Voice of Their Own." The texts explore rights, fair laws, representation, self-government, and having a voice in decisions.

In class, students will use TREES to organize a response, TRACKS to notice details, and CSI to decide whether a quotation connects directly, strongly supports the reason, and is important enough to prove it. Students will introduce a quote with a signal marker and begin an explanation with "This means," "This shows," or "This proves." Ask your student which quotation best proves a reason and how the explanation adds new thinking.

With appreciation,

Your student's teacher

The Writing Academy, LLC

ASK FOR A DEMONSTRATION

Ask your student to show you one proof chain, reason, quotation, and explanation, and run the quotation through CSI. If your student can teach it, the skill is sticking.

2 Family Tip Sheet

The skill, in plain words

Your student is learning to prove a reason with quoted evidence and explanation. CSI tests the quotation, and it stands for Connects, Strongly supports, and Important enough. After choosing the quotation, students introduce it with a signal marker such as "The poet said" or "The playwright said," then explain with "This means," "This shows," or "This proves."

The standard, in plain words

This week the work connects to two Texas standards. Your student develops a focused, structured, coherent draft with specific facts. Your student also composes a short informational text with a clear central idea. In plain words, your student learns to choose precise details and to explain how each detail proves the central idea.

CSI, the evidence test

Letter	What it means	Question to ask
C	Connects	Does the quotation connect directly to the reason?
S	Strongly supports	Does the quotation support the reason strongly?
I	Important enough	Is the quotation important enough to prove the reason?

How to help without giving the answer

- Ask your student to name the reason before choosing a quotation.
- Ask the three CSI questions about any quotation your student chooses.
- Ask your student to introduce the quotation with a signal marker.
- If your student is stuck, ask what "This means..." could add beyond the quote itself.
- Let your student write the explanation. Your job is to ask good questions, not to supply the answer.

reason

a focused idea that supports a central idea

Example, one reason is that rights protect people from unfair treatment.

evidence

specific information that supports an idea

Example, the quotation is the evidence that proves the reason.

explanation

thinking that tells what evidence means and how it works

Example, "This means..." begins the explanation.

quotation

the exact words copied from a text

Example, "These rights protect us every day" is a quotation from the poem.

signal marker

words that introduce a quotation

Example, "The playwright said" introduces drama evidence.

connect

to fit directly with an idea

Example, this quotation connects to the reason of protection.

support

to help prove an idea

Example, the quotation strongly supports the reason.

impact

the effect something has

Example, this impacts people by protecting their daily lives.

CSI

the evidence test that stands for Connects, Strongly supports, Important enough

Example, the quotation passes all three CSI questions.

amendment

a change or addition to a governing document

Example, the poem explains the first ten amendments.

representation

having someone speak for a group

Example, the drama shows why representation matters.

self-government

people helping choose representatives and make decisions

Example, Thomas learns what self-government means.

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 three thinking tools together, TREES to organize, TRACKS to notice details, and CSI to select the best proof. The proof chain has three parts, reason, quoted evidence, and explanation.

The proof chain

Part	What the writer does
Reason	States the focused idea to prove
Quotation	Copies exact words with a signal marker
Explanation	Begins with "This means," "This shows," or "This proves"

CSI, the evidence test

C Connects, does the quotation connect directly to the reason?

S Strongly supports, does the quotation support the reason strongly?

I Important enough, is the quotation important enough to prove it?

Mini version to use at home

Try it together

Use the reason, *Rights protect people from unfair treatment*. Have your student choose one quotation from the poem, such as "These rights protect us every day," then introduce it with a signal marker and begin the explanation with "This means..."

Answer for families. The poet said, "These rights protect us every day." This means the Bill of Rights was designed to guard people and help prevent unfair treatment in their daily lives.

TRACKS While reading, students also look for details 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 the poem and drama.

5 Conversation Starters and a Simple Family Activity

- What makes one quotation a stronger match for a reason than another quotation?
- What are the three CSI questions, and how would you answer them for one quotation?
- How does the poem show that rights protect people or make laws fairer?
- How does the drama show that people want a voice in decisions?
- Which signal marker would introduce a quotation from the poem or drama, and why?

CSI Proof Check

Make a claim about a familiar topic. Choose one piece of proof and ask whether it connects directly, strongly supports the claim, and is important enough. Then say, "This means..." and explain the proof.

Passage Talk

Read one short section of either passage together. Ask your student to name one important idea, point to a detail that supports it, and explain how the detail connects. Finish by asking what question the text leaves the family thinking about.

6 What Strong Work Looks Like

Here is a strong proof chain. The reason is focused, the quotation is exact and introduced with a signal marker, and the explanation adds meaning.

Prompt. Explain why the poem is important.

Reason

One reason the poem is important is that rights protect people from unfair treatment.

Quotation with signal marker

The poet said, "These rights protect us every day."

Explanation

This means the Bill of Rights was designed to guard people and help prevent unfair treatment in their daily lives. The quotation passes CSI because it directly connects to protection, strongly supports the reason, and is important enough to prove it.

Checklist for strong work

- ☐ The reason is focused, not just a topic.
- ☐ The quotation is exact and direct from the text.
- ☐ A signal marker names the source before the quotation.
- ☐ The quotation passes all three CSI questions.
- ☐ The explanation begins with "This means," "This shows," or "This proves."

7 Progress at Home

My student can...

- ☐ name a focused reason that supports the central idea
- ☐ use CSI to choose a quotation that proves the reason
- ☐ introduce a quotation with a signal marker
- ☐ begin an explanation with "This means," "This shows," or "This proves"
- ☐ say what the quotation means and how it supports the reason
- ☐ build a complete reason, evidence, explanation chain

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.