
Grade 3 Cluster Overviews

Grade 3

THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC

Supplemental Support System for Existing RLA Core Curriculum

Cluster PREPARE: Preparing to Write: Choosing the Writing Job, Genre, and Plan

Genre / Writing Type: Genre Selection / Narrative Writing

Focus: Students learn to name topic, purpose, and audience before drafting, choose an appropriate genre, and develop a narrative using TRAILS.

Frameworks: TRAILS; HABIT (Habitual Actions Build Independent Thinkers)

Passages: The Mystery of the Traveling Shell; The Recess Question

Primary TEKS: 3.11A(i), 3.12A(i), 3.12A(ii)

Modules

Module 1: One Topic, Different Writing Jobs

Module 2: Match the Writing Job to the Genre

Module 3: Plan the Path Before the Draft

Module 4: Choose, Justify, Draft, Revise, and Share

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Cluster 1: Single Constructed Response (SCR) with the SCR Ladder

Genre / Writing Type: Informational Writing / Short Constructed Response (SCR)

Focus: Students learn to analyze a prompt using the Three Shapes (red circle for the noun, yellow box for the verb, green triangle for the clue word), identify WHAT/WHY/HOW, and write a three-sentence SCR: thesis (central idea), one piece of text evidence, and an explanation.

Frameworks: Three Shapes; TRACKS; DOT Reading Habit; GRADUATE

Passages: The Pilgrims Chose Plymouth; Life Along the Nile River

Primary TEKS: 3.11A(i), 3.12B(i), 3.12B(ii), 3.12B(iii)

Modules

Module 1: Shaping the Prompt

Module 2: Writing a Thesis (Central Idea)

Module 3: Understanding and Selecting Strong Evidence

Module 4: Explaining Evidence and Building the Full SCR Ladder

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Cluster 2: Extended Constructed Response (ECR) with the TREE Framework

Genre / Writing Type: ECR Informational

Focus: Students step up from the SCR to the ECR using the TREE metaphor: Ground (passage and prompt), Trunk (thesis/central idea), and Branches (reason, evidence, explanation). CSI (Connect, Support, Infer) is introduced.

Frameworks: TREE/TREES; CSI; TRACKS; DOT; Three Shapes; GRADUATE

Passages: Laura Ingalls Wilder; Carmen Lomas Garza

Primary TEKS: 3.11B(i), 3.11B(iii), 3.12B(i), 3.12B(ii), 3.12B(iii)

Modules

Module 1: TREES and Shaping the Prompt

Module 2: Writing the Thesis (Central Idea)

Module 3: Reason/Way (The First Branch)

Module 4: Evidence (The Second Branch)

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Cluster 3: ECR with the TREES Structure

Genre / Writing Type: ECR Informational

Focus: Students write a full multi-paragraph ECR using TREES: Thesis (Central Idea), Reason/Way, Evidence, Explanation, Significance. Poetry and drama are introduced as passage genres.

Frameworks: ECR (TREES); Three Shapes; TRACKS; CSI; DOT; GRADUATE

Passages: Why We Need Laws (poem); The Lunchroom Discoveries (drama)

Primary TEKS: 3.11A, 3.11C, 3.12B

Modules

Module 1: Prompt Analysis & Thesis (Central Idea) Writing

Module 2: Advance Prompt Analysis

Module 3: Magnifying Reasons for WHY Prompts

Module 4: Matching Reasons, Evidence, and Explanations

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Cluster 4: ECR: The Craft of the ECR

Genre / Writing Type: ECR Craft (Informational)

Focus: Each module isolates one specific sentence of the ECR. MICE builds the significance sentence, and GET SET constructs the three-color introduction.

Frameworks: MICE; GET SET; TRACKS; Three Shapes; DOT; GRADUATE

Passages: The Invention of Electricity; The Founding Fathers

Primary TEKS: 3.11B(i), 3.11B(ii), 3.11B(iii), 3.12B(i), 3.12B(ii), 3.12B(iii)

Modules

Module 1: Significant Inferencing Sentences Using MICE

Module 2: Significance Sentences for HOW Prompts Using MICE

Module 3: Getting SET with the Statement of Purpose

Module 4: The Yellow Sentence (Evidentiary Transition)

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Cluster 5: Paired Passage ECR: One Answer, Two Texts

Genre / Writing Type: ECR Paired Passages

Focus: Students connect two informational texts into one response using the Paired Passage HABIT, RRR conclusion, and full-ECR color-coding.

Frameworks: Paired Passage HABIT; HOW-Preposition Thesis; RRR; Color-Coding; GET SET; TRACKS

Passages: Henry Ford: Visionary of Travel; Sam Walton: Visionary of Retail

Primary TEKS: 3.12B(i), 3.12B(ii), 3.12B(iii), 3.11B(ii), 3.11B(iii)

Modules

Module 1: Paired Passage Responses: Connecting Two Texts

Module 2: Paired Passage HOW Prompts: Similarities and Differences

Module 3: Conclusion Paragraph with R1, R2, R3: The Bluebird Moment

Module 4: Color-Coding the Full ECR Paper

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Cluster 6: Argumentative ECR: Claim, Reasons, and Rebuttal

Genre / Writing Type: Argumentative / Opinion Writing

Focus: Students shift to argumentative writing: claim, CREATURES framework, Magnifying Process for reasons, and persuasive letter.

Frameworks: CREATURES; Magnifying Process; TRACKS; Three Shapes; SET; TREES; RRR

Passages: Crash; The Good Citizen

Primary TEKS: 3.12C(i), 3.12C(ii), 3.12D(i), 3.11B(i), 3.11B(ii), 3.11B(iii)

Modules

Module 1: Writing Claims for Argumentative Prompts

Module 2: Supporting Claims with Reasons Through the Magnifying Process

Module 3: Completing the Argumentative Paper with CREATURES

Module 4: Argumentative Correspondence: The Persuasive Letter

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Cluster 7: Poetry: Voices That Inspire Change and Service

Genre / Writing Type: Poetry and Narrative

Focus: Students read and respond to poetry using the LEAVES framework: Lines, Emotion, Artistic Language, Voice, Experience, Significance.

Frameworks: LEAVES (L=Lines, E=Emotion, A=Artistic Language, V=Voice, E=Experience, S=Significance)

Passages: MLK: A Dream Can Grow; What Will You Give?

Primary TEKS: 3.10(D), 3.12(B), 3.8(A)

Modules

Module 1: Entering the Experience: Reading Poems That Inspire

Module 2: Whose Voice? Emotion, Experience, and the Speaker

Module 3: The Moment That Stays: Artistic Language and Sound

Module 4: Meaning and Significance: Bringing All of LEAVES Together

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Cluster 8: Research: How Communities Grow

Genre / Writing Type: Research

Focus: Students build one five-paragraph research paper across four modules (PLACE, PROBLEM, PEOPLE, TRANSFER), learning quotation vs. paraphrase with source credit.

Frameworks: SET Introduction; R-E1-E2 Body; R1-R2-R3 Conclusion; Q/P (Quotation/Paraphrase)

Passages: A Place to Grow; People Make the Difference; What Helps a Community Grow?; Small Choices, Strong Communities

Primary TEKS: 3.13A to H, 3.11B(i), 3.11B(ii), 3.11B(iii), 3.11C(i) to (x), 3.11D(i) to (xxxii)

Modules

Module 1: PLACE: From Resource to Evidence

Module 2: PROBLEM: From Question to Solution

Module 3: PEOPLE: Choices, Service, and Memory

Module 4: TRANSFER: One Paper, One Proof, One Community

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