

4th Grade Clusters at a Glance

Teach BIG® Writing Curriculum • The Writing Academy®, LLC • Grade 4

CLUSTER	OVERARCHING IDEA	MODULES	MAIN FOCUS OF EACH MODULE
Prepare <i>Choosing the Right Genre to Respond</i>	Strong writers identify the topic, purpose, and audience first, then choose the response genre, the Genre Compass and the Response Ecosystem.	M1: The Writer's Job Comes First M2: The Same Idea, Many Jobs M3: Choose the Route & the Planning Strategy M4: Independent Genre Decision & Transfer	Choose a response genre using the Genre Compass (topic → purpose → audience → genre). How purpose and audience change the writing. Select a planning strategy: brainstorm, freewrite, or map. Apply the full genre-selection process independently.
Cluster 1 <i>Short Constructed Response (SCR)</i>	An SCR is built from a Thesis, Evidence, and Explanation.	M1: Level Up Your Thinking M2: Build a Strong Thesis M3: Prove It with Strong Evidence M4: Make the Evidence Mean Something	What an SCR is: Thesis, Evidence, Explanation. Turn prompt clues (topic + question) into a clear thesis. Choose the right text evidence for the thesis. Explain the evidence to complete the SCR.
Cluster 2 <i>Extended Constructed Response: the TREES Tree</i>	An ECR grows like a tree: thesis (trunk), reasons (branches), evidence, and explanation.	M1: Growing the Tree M2: Writing Thesis Statements M3: Organizing Reasons and Ways M4: Choosing Evidence	The ECR TREES structure. The thesis, the trunk of the tree. Grow the reason branches. Grow the evidence branch.

Cluster 3 <i>First Full TREES Informative ECR</i>	Students write their first complete TREES informative ECR, matching reasons, evidence, and explanation with CSI.	M1: Your First Full TREES Response M2: Recognizing Relational Prompt Types M3: Magnifying Many Ideas into Three Reasons M4: Matching Reasons, Evidence & Explanation (CSI)	Write a complete TREES informative ECR. Identify what a prompt really asks (why vs. how). Narrow many ideas into three strong reasons. Use CSI to match evidence to each reason.
Cluster 4 <i>Argumentative: the CREATURES Roadmap</i>	A strong argument follows CREATURES: Claim, Reasons, Evidence, Argument, Thinking, Understanding Others, Rebuttal, Ending, Significance.	M1: CREATURES Foundation M2: From Facts to a Coherent Case M3: Understanding Others and Rebuttal M4: Ending, Significance & Full CREATURES	Claim, Reasons, and Evidence. Argument and Thinking. Fairly represent and respectfully answer another viewpoint. Ending, Significance (the Bluebird Moment), and the full response.
Cluster 5 <i>Paired-Passage ECR: the Evidence Bridge</i>	Answer paired-passage ECR prompts using evidence from both texts.	M1: Building the Evidence Bridge M2: HOW Ideas Connect and Differ M3: The RRR Conclusion Paragraph M4: Seeing the Structure Through Color	Use evidence from two passages together. Compare and connect ideas across the two texts. Close with a Restate / Reflect / Resolve conclusion. Color-code the response to see its structure.

Cluster 6 <i>Argumentative Correspondence (CREATURES Letter)</i>	Argumentative correspondence: declare a claim and defend the why in letter form, using CREATURES.	M1: If You Have to Decide, Declare the Why	Introduce argumentative correspondence.
		M2: Magnify One Claim into Three Reasons	Build three strong reasons for the claim.
		M3: Finishing the Argument with CREATURES	Complete the argumentative paper with CREATURES.
		M4: Beginning and Ending an Argumentative Letter	Craft the letter's opening and closing.
Cluster 7 <i>Narrative & Poetry: Connections</i>	Paths and people connect and create change, explored through narrative and poetry (TRAILS / LEAVES).	M1: Paths Connect People	Roads, rivers, and pathways connect people.
		M2: People Carry More Than Things	People carry stories, ideas, and culture.
		M3: Connections Create Change	Connections between people lead to change.
		M4: What Will We Carry Forward?	Apply lessons of the past to thoughtful choices.
Cluster 8 <i>Research Capstone: Synthesis</i>	A research synthesis: where change begins, how ideas become change, what lasts, and how it all fits together.	M1. PLACE: Where Does Change Begin?	Place and the origins of change.
		M2. IDEAS & CHOICES: Turning Possibility Into Change	How people turn ideas and choices into change.
		M3. LEGACY & EVIDENCE: What Lasts, and How Do We Know?	Legacy and the evidence for it.
		M4. SYNTHESIS: What Shapes Our World?	Synthesize multiple sources into one response.