



THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC

Module 4

Explaining Evidence / Build the Full SCR Ladder

Grade 3 · Cluster 1



Tackling TEKS · Reading & Writing

3.11A(i) · 3.12B(i) · 3.12B(ii) · 3.12B(iii)



★ Meet Our Week!

Week 4 · Very High Stamina

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- Have students state what their evidence means.
- Have students use “This means” or “This shows” for Definition.
- Have students use “This reminds me of” or “This makes me think of” for Story/Anecdote.
- Have students explain how evidence proves the thesis (central idea).
- Have students connect all three parts of the full SCR ladder.

I Can...

- Check whether students distinguish evidence from explanation.
- Check whether students begin explanations with signal markers.
- Check whether students use this to refer to the preceding evidence.
- Check whether students build a full SCR with thesis (central idea), evidence, and explanation.

★ Mystery Object Explain-It

Day 1 · Gather & Reveal

★ Daily Deck

The Pilgrims chose Plymouth because it had fresh water, land for crops, trees for building, and a safe harbor.

informational text

How can a writer explain how their evidence proves the thesis (central idea) in a short constructed response?

Turn to a partner and tell what it does or why it matters.

When you explain, you help another person understand more.

★ Dot the Tricky Words

Day 1 · Gather & Reveal

★ Daily Deck

D

Dot

Place a small dot above any word you are not sure about yet.

O

Discover

Discover the meaning as we learn together through our lessons.

T

Drop

Erase the dot once you know what the word means.

A little dot above a word means:
“I’m not sure about this word yet.”

Dot the word. Discover the meaning. Drop the dot, then celebrate when you own it!

1

Evidence

Provides proof from the passage.

2

Explanation

Explains what the proof means
and how it supports the thesis
(central idea).

3

thesis (central idea)

Answers the prompt.

Check whether students build a full SCR with thesis (central idea), evidence,
and explanation.

Students will write an explanation sentence after evidence that tells what the evidence means.

★ What Explaining Does

Day 1 · Reveal (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

The Full SCR Ladder

Thesis (central idea) Answers the prompt.

Evidence Provides proof from the passage.

Explanation Explains what the proof means.

Watch Me!

Prompt: The Pilgrims chose Plymouth because it had fresh water, land for crops, trees for building, and a safe harbor.

Model: This means Plymouth had resources the Pilgrims needed to live and grow food.

The explanation clarifies the quote instead of repeating it.



Evidence or Explanation Relay Race

★ Daily Deck

Day 2 · Attempt · Partner Game

The Pilgrims chose Plymouth because it had fresh water, land for crops, trees for building, and a safe harbor.

How to Play

- 1 Your team will choose a Pencil Guy marker.
- 2 When I say go, read a card and decide whether it is evidence or explanation.
- 3 Set aside a random opinion.
- 4 You must work carefully and tell why your choice fits.

Success Check: *Listen for the difference between passage proof and the writer's thinking.*

Add the Explanation

Task Card

Plymouth's harbor: explain safer unloading or compare to a safe parking place.

Answer

This means ships could stop there safely.



What is an explanation's job? How does it differ from evidence?

What is an explanation's job?

How does it differ from evidence?

Why use signal markers?

What does this refer to?

Student Directions: “Write one with a Definition signal marker and one with a Story/Anecdote signal marker.”



Definition and Story/Anecdote

Day 3 · Discuss (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

How do the two bookends help differently?

This means

This shows

This reminds me of

Definition and Story/Anecdote signal markers help the writer keep the explanation connected to the evidence.





Try It On Your Own!

Day 3 · Use (Independent Practice) · Interactive Notebook

1

The Pilgrims chose Plymouth because it had fresh water, land for crops, trees for building, and a safe harbor.

2

Ancient Egyptians depended on the Nile River because it provided water, food, rich soil, and transportation.

3

Water connected life in both passages through survival, farming, and settlement.

The explanation must clarify evidence and support the thesis (central idea).



★ Award & Target!

Day 4 · Award & Target

★ Daily Deck

Award 🏆

Point to the explanation you wrote well, then choose one part you want to improve.

- Notebook Glow Line
- Partner Praise
- Bookend Cheer

Target 🎯

One thing understood about explanation; one area needing practice; one signal marker used well.

Curiosity Questions

How does explanation differ from summary?
Why does it build reader trust?

Why did people settle in places with helpful natural resources?

Write a thesis (central idea), one evidence sentence, and one Definition or Story/Anecdote explanation.

Require thesis (central idea), evidence, and one explanation.

Match each evidence sentence to an explanation, then read the pair aloud.

Evidence gives proof.

Explanation tells what the proof means.

This means Plymouth had resources people could use.

Keep the final interpretation and wording with the student.



Turn and Teach

Enrichment · Write in your notebook

Build an SCR ladder using everything you have practiced. Explain which bookend helps your reader most and why.

Why did people settle in places with helpful natural resources?

Climb the Ladder.

Compare the
Bookends.

Expert Reflection.



★ My Progress Tracker

This tracker is for **YOU!** As you read and write this week, look at each skill. If you can do it all by yourself, color in the box that matches how you feel. Be honest, this helps you see how much you are growing!

I Can...	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Tell what evidence is.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Tell what an explanation does.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Distinguish evidence from explanation.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Use This means or This shows.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Use This reminds me of or This makes me think of.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Identify what this points back to.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Build a full SCR with thesis (central idea), evidence, and explanation.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Keep an explanation in original words and connected to proof.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Revise and edit the completed response.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!

★ Citizenship Connection

Good Citizens · Our Community & Country

★ Responsible participation in a community

You can use evidence from both passages to explain how people met their needs. As you read, notice how water and working together helped each community.

Reflect & Discuss

Ask students how water and teamwork help communities meet daily needs.

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: Why did people settle in places with helpful natural resources?

LOW

There was fresh water and land.

What Is Working: Names relevant passage details.

What Needs Improvement: A thesis (central idea), an evidence sentence, and an explanation are missing.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: Why did people settle in places with helpful natural resources?

MEDIUM

People settled in places with helpful natural resources because those places provided what they needed to survive. The text states, “There was also fresh water and land where crops could be planted.”

What Is Working: Includes a thesis (central idea) and relevant evidence.

What Needs Improvement: An explanation in the writer's own words.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: Why did people settle in places with helpful natural resources?

HIGH

People settled in places with helpful natural resources because those places provided what they needed to survive. The text states, “There was also fresh water and land where crops could be planted.” This means people chose places where they could find water and grow food.

What Is Working: All three parts connect. The original explanation clarifies the evidence and supports the thesis (central idea). Ready for partner sharing and a light conventions edit.

★ **This is our target!**