



THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC

Module 4

Evidence (The Second Branch of the Tree)

Grade 3 · Cluster 2



Tackling TEKS · Reading & Writing

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



★ Meet Our Week!

Medium stamina

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- I will read my reason before I look for evidence.
- I will find proof in the passage that matches my reason.
- I will connect my proof to the prompt.
- I will infer what my proof shows.

I Can...

- I can tell the difference between a reason and evidence.
- I can find evidence that proves a specific reason.
- I can explain why my evidence matches my reason.
- I can use CSI to write a response.



The Tree and The Second Branch (Evidence)

★ Daily Deck

Day 1 · Gather & Reveal

Very High stamina passages

informational text

How does a writer select evidence that proves the reason it supports?

Stand tall like a tree. Today we are adding the second branch, the Evidence Branch.

A reason is just an idea until you prove it.





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!



★ Claim vs. Proof

Day 1 · Reveal

★ Daily Deck

C

Claim

A reason is just an idea until you prove it.

P

Proof

Without proof, your branch has no leaves.

M

Match

Look for proof that matches the idea in your reason card.

Your evidence must prove your exact reason.

If it does not match, it is not evidence for this branch.

★ Wilder Evidence Model

Day 1 · Reveal (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

Evidence Connection

Read your reason statement carefully.

Ask yourself what specific proof I need to find.

If a sentence does not prove that exact reason, it is not the right evidence yet.

Watch Me!

Prompt: Find evidence in the passage that proves this specific reason, not just a true fact about Laura.

Model: When Laura was a little girl, her family moved many times as they searched for places to live and farm.

Explain that this proves the reason about moving.

★ Evidence Grab Directions

Day 2 · Attempt · Partner Game

★ Daily Deck

Very High stamina passages

How to Play

- 1 Partners shuffle four reason cards and four evidence cards face down in two rows of four.
- 2 Player 1 turns over two cards.
- 3 A correct reason/evidence pair is kept; the player
- 4 Return both cards to the same places face down, then switch players.
- 5 Check pairs against slides 15-23; more matched pairs wins.

Success Check: Name the original proof

With Your Partner

Task Card

Families traveled by wagon and lived in small homes on the prairie.

Answer

They traveled by wagon and lived in small homes on the prairie. (Paragraph 1)



Which two parts can you take from the passage?

Which part must come from your thinking about what the evidence shows?

Compare your evidence choices.

How does the reason help you choose the right sentence?

If your response only repeats the quotation, what inference do you still need to add?

Student Directions: “Invite students to describe a family memory that a story or picture could preserve.”



CSI Discussion Questions

Day 3 · Discuss (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

How does the reason help you choose the right sentence?

Connect

Support

Infer

Connect and Support usually come from the text, while Infer comes from thinking.





Try It On Your Own!

Day 3 · Use (Independent Practice) · Interactive Notebook

1

have students read the reason and identify what kind of proof is needed.

2

students find a supporting paragraph and write their own Connect and Support moves.

3

students choose an Infer sentence that explains what the evidence shows about the reason.

Explain why Carmen Lomas Garza's artwork is important to culture.

★ Award & Target!

Day 4 · Award & Target

★ Daily Deck

Award 🏆

Underline the evidence you selected in yellow.

- draw the evidence branch
- recognize text-supported proof that matches a reason
- identify the exact words that prove the reason

Target 🎯

Choose one goal beginning with Next time I will.

Curiosity Questions

discuss why relevant evidence proves a reason and keeps writing focused on the thesis (central idea).

Explain why Laura Ingalls Wilder's books continue to inspire readers.

Collect the CSI ticket independently: Connect move, Support with paragraph number, and Infer sentence.

Teach your partner how to write a CSI response.



Name the Thinking

Small-Group Support

★ Daily Deck

Use CSI Cue Cards to support students who stop at Support and do not Infer.

Connect tells where the proof came from.

Support gives the exact words from the passage.

Infer says what that shows about your reason.

The passage states that _____. This shows that _____.

Your job is to finish all three moves, not just two.

★ Connect Across Texts

Enrichment · Write in your notebook

Double Thesis (central idea) Challenge: synthesize both passages in one central idea.

Explain how Laura Ingalls Wilder and Carmen Lomas Garza both tell stories about everyday life.

Have students reread both passages and identify a shared idea.

Require a thesis (central idea) that is true of both sources.

Have students rewrite with a stronger preposition.

★ 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	Demonstrated Independently
Selects evidence that proves the stated reason.	Not Yet	Getting It	Demonstrated Independently
Locates proof in a specific paragraph of the passage.	Not Yet	Getting It	Demonstrated Independently
Distinguishes between a claim and its proof.	Not Yet	Getting It	Demonstrated Independently
Uses CSI to connect ideas, support with evidence, and infer meaning.	Not Yet	Getting It	Demonstrated Independently
Writes an Infer sentence that goes beyond the text.	Not Yet	Getting It	Demonstrated Independently
Matches evidence cards to reason cards accurately.	Not Yet	Getting It	Demonstrated Independently
Rejects true but irrelevant evidence for a reason.	Not Yet	Getting It	Demonstrated Independently
Cites evidence using paragraph numbers in the response.	Not Yet	Getting It	Demonstrated Independently
Revises a CSI response by deleting unrelated details.	Not Yet	Getting It	Demonstrated Independently

★ Citizenship Connection

Good Citizens · Our Community & Country

★ Literacy-to-Citizenship Connection

A clear thesis (central idea) communicates an idea accurately; text evidence keeps that communication grounded in fact.

Reflect & Discuss

You can learn about a community through its stories and artwork.

Which detail helps you understand how families lived or celebrated?

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: Explain why Carmen Lomas Garza believed everyday family moments were important enough to paint.

LOW

The passage states that families make tamales together during the holidays.

What Is Working: Selects a true sentence from the text that relates to family traditions.

What Needs Improvement: The reason statement and the Infer move are missing.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: Explain why Carmen Lomas Garza believed everyday family moments were important enough to paint.

MEDIUM

The evidence is a quote from the passage about Laura's family making bread.

What Is Working: The evidence comes directly from the text and matches the reason provided.

What Needs Improvement: The response stops at Support and does not include an Infer sentence to explain significance.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: Explain why Carmen Lomas Garza believed everyday family moments were important enough to paint.

HIGH

Carmen Lomas Garza painted everyday family moments because she believed cultural traditions should be remembered and celebrated.

What Is Working: The noun, verb, and answer are present; because joins a reason grounded in the passage.

★ **This is our target!**