



THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC

Module 3

Prove It with Strong Evidence

Grade 4 • Cluster 1

Tackling TEKS • Reading & Writing



4.12(B)(i) • 4.12(B)(ii) • 4.12(B)(iii) • 4.11(C)(i) • 4.11(C)(ii) • 4.11(D)(i) • 4.11(D)(xxv)

★ Meet Our Week!

Week 3 · High Stamina · Cluster 1 (SCR)

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- I will choose short, meaningful quotes that fit the prompt.
- I will speak about my thinking, record my work, and explain why a quote is strong.
- I will check CSI before I use a quote.
- I will match my quoted words exactly to the passage.

I Can...

- I can tell evidence (exact words in quotation marks) from a summary.
- I can use the CSI test to decide whether a quote is strong enough.
- I can announce a quote with a signal phrase and quotation marks.
- I can add strong evidence to a thesis (central idea) to prove it.



A Quote Is Not Automatically Strong

★ Daily Deck

Day 1 · Gather & Reveal

Passages: “A Promise Written Long Ago” & “Morning in the Village”

nonfiction & historical fiction · High Stamina

How can we decide whether a piece of evidence is strong enough to prove our thesis (central idea)?

Which proves the idea better? Is every quote automatically strong evidence?

A quote is not automatically strong evidence.



★ 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!

C

Connect

Does the quote connect to the prompt?

S

Support

Does it support the thesis (central idea)?

I

Infer

Can it help us infer something important?

Announce evidence with a **signal phrase** and **quotation marks**.

A quotation is evidence; a well-chosen quotation that passes CSI is STRONG evidence.

★ What Counts as Evidence?

Day 1 · Reveal (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

Evidence vs. Summary

Evidence = exact words from the text in quotation marks.

NOT evidence = “People grow food.”

Watch Me!

Given Thesis (Central Idea): The setting is important because people depend on farming and trade.

Answer Reveal: The setting is important because people depend on farming and trade. The text says, ‘Corn, beans, and squash grew in long rows’ and ‘They brought pottery and tools to trade.’

★ CSI Evidence Sort!

Day 2 · Attempt · Partner Game

★ Daily Deck

Passages: “A Promise Written Long Ago” & “Morning in the Village”

How to Play

- 1 Draw a task card.
- 2 Read the quote.
- 3 Test it with CSI.
- 4 Decide Strong or Weak for the task.
- 5 Defend your decision using C, S, and I.
- 6 Record one strong quote and explain why it is strong.

Quick Check: *Move your Pencil Guy if your reasoning is correct.*

With Your Partner...

Sample Round · Quote

“They brought pottery and tools to trade.”

test with CSI

Answer · Strong Evidence

C: connects to village setting/community? **S:** supports an idea about trade or cooperation? **I:** can we infer people depended on one another?

Why Was It Strong?

How did it **Connect** to the prompt?

What part of the thesis (central idea) did it **Support**?

What could a reader **Infer** from it?

Why would another quote be weaker?

Student Directions: “Connect to the Overarching Question: How does CSI help us decide whether evidence is strong enough?”



What Makes Evidence Strong?

Day 3 · Discuss (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

Why Was It Strong?

**exact words in
quotation marks**

**a quote that connects
to the prompt**

**a quote we can
infer meaning from**

Use CSI: Connect to the prompt, Support the thesis (central idea), Infer something meaningful.



★ Try It On Your Own!

Day 3 · Use (Independent Practice) · Interactive Notebook

QUOTE

Given Thesis (Central Idea): The author shows the setting through details about the environment. *Add evidence that proves the environment.*

CSI

Add one or more strong pieces of evidence that pass CSI. *Announce the evidence with a signal phrase and quotation marks.*

SWEEP

After you write your evidence sentence: confirm it is a complete sentence; check subject-verb agreement in the sentence around the quote; check your high-frequency spelling; and confirm the quoted words match the passage exactly.

Add one or more strong pieces of evidence that pass CSI. Announce the evidence with a signal phrase and quotation marks.

★ Award & Target!

Day 4 · Award & Target

★ Daily Deck

Award 🏆

Write “I used strong evidence today” in your notebook.

- I will use quotation marks correctly.
- I will choose shorter, more meaningful quotes.
- I will check CSI before I use a quote.

Target 🎯

“My next evidence goal is _____
because _____.”

Curiosity Questions

Can weak evidence lower your score? How do authors choose details to include?



Exit Ticket

Day 5 · Educate & Explain to Others

★ Daily Deck

How can we decide whether evidence is strong enough to prove our thesis (central idea)?

“This quote is strong evidence because it connects to _____, supports _____, and helps me infer _____.”

Finish: “This quote is strong evidence because ____.”



★ Quote or Not?

Small-Group Support

★ Daily Deck

Sort each sentence: **EVIDENCE** = exact words + quotation marks. **NOT EVIDENCE** = a paraphrase or general statement.

“Corn, beans, and squash grew in long rows”

“People grow food.”

“They brought pottery and tools to trade”

Support Frame: “The text says, ‘___.’ This shows ___.”

If it is not in quotation marks, it is not evidence.

★ Double Evidence Builder

Enrichment · Write in your notebook

Challenge: Build a response with two quotes, then explain how they work together.

Prompt: Why is the setting important to the village?

Write a thesis (central idea).

Add TWO quotes.

Explain how both connect.

★ 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 set	I can do it
Tell evidence from a summary.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Run the CSI test on a quote.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Announce a quote with a signal phrase.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Add strong evidence to a thesis (central idea).	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Check my evidence sentence for conventions.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it

★ Citizenship Connection

Good Citizens · Our Community & Country

★ A Promise Written Long Ago · Morning in the Village

“The king collected heavy taxes and made unfair decisions.” “The barons wanted the king to follow rules.” “They brought pottery and tools to trade.”

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: Why is the setting important to the people in Tayanita's village? (Prove your thesis (central idea) with strong evidence that passes CSI.)

LOW Level 1

"The setting is important because people grow food. The village has crops and trades with others." (Level 1)

What Is Working: The student states a thesis (central idea) and names farming and trade.

Teacher Notes: There is no quoted evidence, only a summary, so the idea is not proven with the author's exact words.

What Needs Improvement: Add exact quotes with a signal phrase and quotation marks that pass CSI.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: Why is the setting important to the people in Tayanita's village? (Prove your thesis (central idea) with strong evidence that passes CSI.)

MEDIUM Level 2-3

"The setting is important because people depend on farming. The text says, 'Corn, beans, and squash grew in long rows.'" (Level 2-3)

What Is Working: A thesis (central idea), a signal phrase, and one exact quote that connects and supports.

Teacher Notes: One quote proves farming; a second quote would strengthen the response and support an inference about the whole community.

What Needs Improvement: Add a second strong quote (about trade) and connect both to the thesis (central idea).

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: Why is the setting important to the people in Tayanita's village? (Prove your thesis (central idea) with strong evidence that passes CSI.)

HIGH Level 3-4

"The setting is important because people depend on farming and trade. The text says, 'Corn, beans, and squash grew in long rows' and 'They brought pottery and tools to trade.'" (Level 3-4)

What Is Working: A clear thesis (central idea) with two exact quotes, each announced correctly, that connect to the prompt, support the thesis (central idea), and let the reader infer that the community depends on cooperation.

Teacher Notes: Both quotes pass CSI and work together, exactly what strong evidence looks like.

★ **This is our target!**