



THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC



Module 3

Organizing Reasons and Ways

Grade 4 · Cluster 2

Tackling TEKS · Reading & Writing

4.11(B)(iv) · 4.12(B)(i) · 4.12(B)(ii) · 4.12(B)(iii) · 4.11(C)(iii) · 4.11(C)(iv) · 4.11(D)(xi) · 4.11(D)(xii) · 4.11(D)(xiii) · 4.11(D)(xiv)



★ Meet Our Week!

Week 3 · High Stamina · Cluster 2 (ECR Informative)

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- I will use the passage, speak about my thinking, and record my work.
- I will explain how my choices strengthen the response.
- I will brainstorm freely before I narrow.
- I will keep only ideas that prove the thesis (central idea).

I Can...

- I can brainstorm, sort, and narrow reasons or ways that directly support my thesis (central idea).
- I can tell a reason (WHY) from a way (HOW).
- I can sort ideas into buckets or baskets, including an off-topic basket.
- I can choose reasons or ways from different baskets so my paragraphs are not repetitive.



Reason/Way = First Major Branch

Day 1 · Gather & Reveal

★ Daily Deck

Passages: “The Energy We Use Everyday” & “Columbus’s Arrival”

nonfiction · High Stamina · the reason branch

How can organizing reasons or ways into different groups help us build focused, nonrepetitive body paragraphs?

A reason tells WHY the thesis (central idea) is true. A way tells HOW the thesis (central idea) is true.

Every reason or way must prove the thesis (central idea).





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!



★ The Magnifying Process

Day 1 · Reveal

★ Daily Deck

1

Brainstorm

List as many connected ideas as you can. Do not judge yet.

2

Sort

Organize your ideas into buckets or baskets of like ideas.

3

Choose

Keep only one strong idea from each basket.

4

Narrow

Use ideas from only two or three different baskets.

Magnifying helps us take a big idea and organize it into smaller, clearer parts.

A strong thesis (central idea) needs strong reasons or ways to prove it.



Grow the First Branch by Magnifying

★ Daily Deck

Day 1 · Reveal (cont.)

Model (Columbus)

Thesis (Central Idea) “Because Columbus’s arrival changed land, culture, and relationships in the Americas, it affected people in important ways.”

If we kept choosing ideas from the same basket, our body paragraphs would start sounding the same.

Watch Me!

Baskets: Land and Power / Religion and Culture / Relationships and Conflict / Off-Topic.

Final keepers from different baskets:
claimed land for Spain; brought Christianity; conflict developed.

Writers magnify their ideas by sorting them into buckets or baskets, then choosing from different baskets.



★ Bucket Sort

Day 2 · Attempt · Partner Game

★ Daily Deck

Passages: “The Energy We Use Everyday” & “Columbus’s Arrival”

How to Play

- 1 Read the thesis (central idea).
- 2 Spread the idea cards.
- 3 Add ideas.
- 4 Sort like ideas.
- 5 Create an off-topic basket.
- 6 Choose one keeper from each.
- 7 Narrow to 2-3 baskets.
- 8 Turn the final ideas into topic-sentence beginnings.

With Your Partner...

Thesis (Central Idea) Set A

“Because Columbus’s arrival changed land, culture, and relationships in the Americas, it affected people in important ways.”

Idea cards

claimed land for Spain; Spain gained influence; settlements grew; control; missionaries came; brought Christianity; changed traditions; traded with the Taino; conflict developed; Carib resisted; islands; sailing; boats.

Discuss Organized Thinking

Why brainstorm wide first?

Why sort?

Why keep an off-topic basket?

Why choose from different baskets?

Student Directions: “Connect to the Overarching Question: How does grouping ideas help us build focused, nonrepetitive body paragraphs?”

Writers need organized thinking before organized writing.

**Brainstorming helps
our thinking grow
before we narrow.**

**A fact can be true in the
passage and still not prove this
thesis (central idea).**

**Different baskets lead
to deeper, more
diverse writing.**

Choosing from entirely different baskets gives a more in-depth and diverse list of ideas.



Try It On Your Own!

Day 3 · Use (Independent Practice) · Interactive Notebook

THESIS (CENTRAL IDEA)

Write one thesis (central idea).

BASKETS

Draw four baskets. Brainstorm connected ideas, sort them into baskets (make one off-topic if needed), choose one strong idea from each, and narrow to two or three from different baskets.

ADD / DELETE

Look at one basket. ADD one idea that makes the category clearer. DELETE one weak or off-topic idea.

SWEEP

Then edit one content sentence to use a comparative or superlative adjective and one adverb of frequency or degree accurately.

Magnify My Thesis (Central Idea)



★ Award & Target!

Day 4 · Award & Target

★ Daily Deck

Award 🏆

Draw two or three baskets and place a star in the one you think was your strongest.

- Complete: “One idea I organized well today was ____.”
- Earn a Branch Builder Badge.
- Class cheer: “Brainstorm wide! Sort with care! Strong ideas are growing there!”

Target 🎯

Choose one target: brainstorm more, sort by meaning, remove off-topic ideas, choose different angles, or write clearer topic sentences.

Curiosity Questions

“Why does organized thinking usually lead to stronger writing?” “What might happen if all of our paragraphs come from the same basket?”

How can organizing reasons or ways into different groups help us build focused, nonrepetitive body paragraphs?

Grouping ideas helps us see which are alike, remove weak or off-topic ideas, and choose reasons or ways from different categories so each body paragraph develops a different part of the thesis (central idea).

Finish: “One Magnifying step I can teach is ____.”



Pre-Sorted Baskets

Small-Group Support

★ Daily Deck

Place each strip where it belongs, then circle one keeper in each and narrow to two or three.

Land and Power

Religion and Culture

Relationships and Conflict

Off Topic

Strips: claimed land for Spain; missionaries came; conflict developed; Carib resisted; sailing; brought Christianity; Spain gained influence; traded with the Taino.

Habit: “Say it, sort it, choose it, write it.”





Three Different Angles

Enrichment · Write in your notebook

Prove the same thesis (central idea) from three different angles.

Directions: choose one thesis (central idea); brainstorm at least 10 ideas; sort them into at least 4 baskets; choose 3 different baskets; write one topic sentence from each.

“Columbus affected the Americas by claiming land for Spain.”

“Columbus affected the Americas by bringing religious and cultural changes.”

“Columbus affected the Americas by contributing to conflict with Native American groups.”

★ 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 a reason from a way.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Brainstorm ideas that connect to the thesis (central idea).	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Sort ideas into baskets, including off-topic.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Choose reasons or ways from different baskets.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Add and delete ideas for coherence.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it

★ Citizenship Connection

Good Citizens · Our Community & Country

★ Columbus's Arrival · The Energy We Use Everyday

“Columbus’s actions had lasting effects on land, culture, and the people who lived in the Americas.” “By carefully managing Earth’s resources and making thoughtful decisions, communities can help ensure that energy remains available for many years to come.”

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: Magnify the thesis (central idea) “Because Columbus’s arrival changed land, culture, and relationships in the Americas, it affected people in important ways” into strong reasons.

LOW Level 1

“Reasons: claimed land for Spain, Spain gained influence, settlements grew.”

What Is Working: The student lists ideas connected to the thesis (central idea).

Teacher Notes: All three reasons come from the same basket (Land and Power), so the body paragraphs would repeat.

What Needs Improvement: Choose reasons from different baskets so each paragraph develops a different part of the thesis (central idea).

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: Magnify the thesis (central idea) “Because Columbus’s arrival changed land, culture, and relationships in the Americas, it affected people in important ways” into strong reasons.

MEDIUM Level 2-3

“Reasons: claimed land for Spain (Land and Power); brought Christianity (Religion and Culture); Spain gained influence (Land and Power).”

What Is Working: The student uses two different baskets and labels them.

Teacher Notes: Two reasons still come from the same basket, so the response is not yet fully diverse.

What Needs Improvement: Replace the repeated Land-and-Power reason with one from a third basket (Relationships and Conflict).

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: Magnify the thesis (central idea) “Because Columbus’s arrival changed land, culture, and relationships in the Americas, it affected people in important ways” into strong reasons.

HIGH Level 3-4

“Reasons from different baskets: Columbus affected the Americas by claiming land for Spain (Land and Power); by bringing religious and cultural change (Religion and Culture); by creating conflict with Native American groups (Relationships and Conflict).”

What Is Working: Three reasons, each from a different basket, each proving the thesis (central idea) from a distinct angle.

Teacher Notes: This magnified set will grow into three focused, non-repetitive body paragraphs.

★ **This is our target!**