



THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC



Module 3

Magnifying Many Ideas into Three Strong Reasons

Grade 4 · Cluster 3

Tackling TEKS · Reading & Writing



4.11(B)(iv) · 4.12(B)(i) · 4.12(B)(ii) · 4.12(B)(iii) · 4.11(C)(i-iv) · 4.11(D)(i) · 4.11(D)(vi)-(xiv) · 4.11(D)(xxxiii) · 4.11(D)(xxxv)



★ Meet Our Week!

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

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- I will read closely, speak about my thinking, record my work, and explain how my choices strengthen an informative ECR.
- I will use the four-layer magnifying process instead of stopping at my first idea.
- I will compare ideas and remove weak, off-topic, or repeated reasons.
- I will check whether each reason can become its own focused paragraph.

I Can...

- I can brainstorm many possible reasons before choosing.
- I can group and combine like-minded reasons.
- I can narrow each group to one strong, paragraph-sized idea.
- I can write three distinct reason sentences for the main body paragraphs.



Listen, Decide, and Defend

Day 1 · Gather & Reveal

★ Daily Deck

Passages: “A Lone Star Choice” & “Making It Happen”

poem & drama · High Stamina · magnifying reasons

Hear Choice A and Choice B. Hold up A or B.

Round 1: A = “decisions affect the future”; B = “Texas joined in 1845.”

Stronger reason: A. B is a specific evidence detail.

Finish: “I chose ____ because ____.”





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!



★ Magnifying Process

Day 1 · Reveal

★ Daily Deck

1

Brainstorm

Brainstorm
many reasons

2

Group

Group like-
minded reasons

3

Narrow

Combine or
narrow each
group

4

Keep

Keep the best
three

5

Write

Turn them into
reason
sentences

Hear ye, hear ye, reasons are near me. I gather them, group them, and make them clear, see!

A reason is the big idea. Evidence is the specific proof.

★ Sample Why Prompt

Day 1 · Reveal (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

Explain the importance of decisions in both texts.

Thesis (Central Idea) In both “A Lone Star Choice” and “Making it Happen,” important decisions matter because they shape the future, require support, and lead to change.

Watch Me!

Brainstorm: decisions can change the future; decisions can cause conflict; support helps ideas grow; support helps people get started.

Reason sentence: One reason decisions are important in both texts is that they shape the future.

These are not evidence sentences. These are reason sentences.

★ Magnify the Reasons

Day 2 · Attempt · Partner Game

★ Daily Deck

Passages: “A Lone Star Choice” (poem) & “Making It Happen” (drama)

How to Play

- 1 Brainstorm wide.
- 2 Sort into colored baskets.
- 3 Combine repeated ideas.
- 4 Narrow each basket to one strong reason.
- 5 Keep only three distinct groups.
- 6 Write one reason sentence for each.

Colored Baskets

Yellow Basket: Change and Future
decisions shape the future

Blue Basket: Support and Success
support helps ideas become reality

Green Basket: Conflict and Results
conflict and choices lead to important results

Now let's talk about what we noticed during the magnifying process.

Why brainstorm many first?

What makes reasons like-minded?

When should two reasons be combined?

How do you know a reason can hold a full paragraph?



Possible Student Responses

Day 3 · Discuss (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

How do you know when a reason is too small, too broad, or just right?

A reason is too small if it sounds like one tiny detail.

Writers narrow ideas so their paragraphs stay focused.

A reason is the big idea, and evidence proves it.

Could each of these become its own paragraph?



★ Try It On Your Own!

Day 3 · Use (Independent Practice) · Interactive Notebook

PROMPT

Explain the significance of support in both texts.

BRAINSTORM

Brainstorm at least eight possible reasons. Place your reasons into like-minded groups.

NARROW

Narrow each group to one strong idea. Keep only the best three ideas.

REASONS

Turn those three ideas into complete reason sentences.

Magnify and Write My Three Reason Sentences

★ Award & Target!

Day 4 · Award & Target

★ Daily Deck

Award 🏆

Circle your strongest reason sentence.

- Complete: “This reason shines because it is distinct, focused, and can be supported with ____.”
- Careful Grouper
- Clear Reason Writer
- Magnifying Master
- Thoughtful Narrower

Target 🎯

Choose one target: brainstorm more; group by meaning; combine duplicates; avoid evidence-as-reason; make each final reason different enough for its own paragraph.

Curiosity Questions

“Could the same prompt lead to different but still strong sets of reasons?” “What happens if a writer chooses reasons that are too similar?”



Exit Ticket

Day 5 · Educate & Explain to Others

★ Daily Deck

Partner A explains what happens in Layer 1, Layer 2, and Layer 3.

Partner B explains how the final three reasons are chosen and how those reasons become reason sentences.

Then switch and add one example from today's lesson.





Color-Sort Reason Rescue

Small-Group Support

★ Daily Deck

Read prewritten reasons aloud. Sort like ideas. Combine repeats. Pick one strong reason per color group.

One reason _____ is important is that _____.

Another reason _____ is significant is that _____.

A third reason _____ matters is that _____.

We are going to slow the process down and build it together.

★ Competing Sets of Reasons

Enrichment · Write in your notebook

Advanced writers know that a strong prompt can lead to more than one strong answer.

Explain the importance of decisions in both texts.

Create one set of three reasons focused mostly on the poem.

Create a second set of three reasons focused mostly on the drama.

Then create a final mixed set that works best for both texts together.

★ 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
I brainstorm many possible reasons before choosing.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
I group like-minded reasons by meaning.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
I combine duplicates and remove weak or off-topic ideas.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
I keep three distinct, paragraph-sized reasons.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
I write three complete reason sentences.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it

★ Citizenship Connection

Good Citizens · Our Community & Country

★ A Lone Star Choice · Making It Happen

“Leaders talked both day and night, About joining the U.S. and what was right.” “When people have ideas, determination, and support, they can create amazing things.”

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: Explain the significance of support in both texts.

LOW

support helps ideas grow

What Needs Improvement: This is a possible brainstorm idea, but it is not yet a complete reason sentence and does not show three distinct body-paragraph directions.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: Explain the significance of support in both texts.

MEDIUM

One reason support is significant in both texts is that it helps people move forward. Another reason support is significant in both texts is that it makes success more possible.

What Needs Improvement: The two complete reasons are focused, but the response needs a third distinct reason sentence.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: Explain the significance of support in both texts.

HIGH

One reason support is significant in both texts is that it helps people move forward. Another reason support is significant in both texts is that it makes success more possible. A third reason support is significant in both texts is that it helps important change happen.

★ **This is our target!**