



THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC



Module 3

Understanding Others and Rebuttal

Grade 4 · Cluster 4

Tackling TEKS · Reading & Writing

4.11(B)(ii) · 4.12(C)(i) · 4.12(C)(ii) · 4.11(C)(vi) · 4.11(D)(xvii) · 4.11(D)(xxi) · 4.11(D)(xxii) · 4.11(D)(xxiii) · 4.11(D)(xxiv) ·
4.11(D)(xxv) · 4.11(D)(xxvi) · 4.11(D)(xxvii) · 4.11(D)(xxviii) · 4.11(D)(xxix)



★ Meet Our Week!

Week 3 • High Stamina

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- I will: read closely, speak about my thinking, use evidence accurately, and explain how each CREATURES move strengthens an argumentative response.
- I will use a fair frame such as ‘Some readers may argue...’ before responding.
- I will respect the idea and answer it with reasoning instead of attacking the person.
- I will check whether my rebuttal defends or refines my central claim.

I Can...

- I can: acknowledge another viewpoint accurately and respond with reasoning and evidence that defends or refines my claim.
- I can represent another viewpoint accurately, respectfully, and specifically.
- I can write a rebuttal that answers the actual point with reasoning and evidence.
- I can explain when another reasonable view helps me refine my claim.



Hear It, Then Respond

Day 1 · Gather & Reveal

★ Daily Deck

Passages: “The Wealth of Mansa Musa” & “Four Regions, One Big Adventure”

nonfiction · High Stamina · Understanding and Rebuttal

How can accurately understanding another viewpoint help us write a stronger and more respectful rebuttal?

“Argumentative writing is not about making the other side sound foolish.”

Understand the other view accurately, then answer it with 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!

★ Understanding Others and Rebuttal

Day 1 · Reveal

★ Daily Deck

U

UNDERSTAND

I can represent another viewpoint accurately, respectfully, and specifically.

R

REBUTTAL

I can write a rebuttal that answers the actual point with reasoning and evidence.



BE FAIR

The other viewpoint would agree that I represented the idea accurately. My wording is respectful and specific.

Fair frames: ‘Some readers may argue that...’ · ‘Another reasonable view is...’

Rebuttal frames: ‘However, the stronger evidence shows...’ · ‘That point matters, but...’

My rebuttal directly answers the point with reasoning or evidence, and my original claim remains clear or becomes more precise.



★ Fair Viewpoint, Strong Rebuttal

Day 1 · Reveal (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

Fair or Unfair?

Round 2 ‘Some people think learning is dumb.’ = UNFAIR U

Round 1 ‘Some readers may argue supporting learning mattered most.’ = FAIR U

Listen for whether the rebuttal actually uses reasoning or evidence.

Watch Me!

U, Understanding Others: Some readers may argue supporting learning mattered more because Timbuktu became a center of study.

R, Rebuttal: That point is strong, but protected trade had a broader immediate effect.

This response acknowledges the value of learning while explaining why the evidence for protected trade matches the claim.

★ Perspective Switchboard

Day 2 · Attempt · Partner Game

★ Daily Deck

Passages: “The Wealth of Mansa Musa” & “Four Regions, One Big Adventure”

How to Play

- 1 Draw a claim card.
- 2 Draw two possible U viewpoint cards.
- 3 Choose the fairest, most accurate viewpoint.
- 4 Build a rebuttal using one piece of text evidence.
- 5 Partner checks: ‘Would the other side agree this represents the view fairly?’

Success Check: *Represent the alternate viewpoint accurately, use respectful language, respond to the actual point raised.*

With Your Partner...

Viewpoint Card

Supporting learning had the greater long-term impact because knowledge could continue helping future generations.

then build the rebuttal

Evidence-Based Rebuttal

That point is important; however, protected trade affected the whole kingdom by bringing more merchants, goods, and wealth into Mali.

What makes a viewpoint representation fair?

Why can acknowledging a good point make your own argument stronger?

What is the difference between rebutting an idea and attacking a person?

When might considering another view cause a writer to refine the claim?

Student Directions: “A confident writer can listen carefully, represent it fairly, and then explain what the evidence supports.”

★ **Accurate Representation**

Day 3 · Discuss (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

The most important Grade 4 habit is accurate representation: students should be able to hear the other side say, ‘Yes, that is what I meant.’

The other viewpoint would agree that I represented the idea accurately.

My wording is respectful and specific.

My rebuttal directly answers the point with reasoning or evidence.

Reframe it as evidence-based response.

★ Try It On Your Own!

Day 3 · Use (Independent Practice) · Interactive Notebook

CLAIM + R/E/T

Write a clear claim. Build one strong reason/evidence/thinking chain.

UNDERSTAND

Write one accurate ‘Some readers may argue...’ sentence.

REBUTTAL

Respond with ‘However...’ or another respectful rebuttal frame. Use evidence or specific reasoning in the rebuttal.

SWEEP

Read the U sentence as if you held that viewpoint; revise if it sounds unfair. Edit reflexive pronouns and the assigned capitalization categories.

Other viewpoint is accurate and fair; rebuttal directly answers it with reasoning/evidence; original claim remains clear.

★ Award & Target!

Day 4 · Award & Target

★ Daily Deck

Award 🏆

Give yourself credit for leveling up your thinking today.

- One phrase that helped me sound respectful was...
- One place my rebuttal needs more evidence is...
- The hardest part of representing another view fairly was...
- Next time I will respond to the exact point by...

Target 🎯

“My rebuttal became stronger when I

_____.”

Curiosity Questions

Why can acknowledging a good point make your own argument stronger? When might considering another view cause a writer to refine the claim?

How can accurately understanding another viewpoint help us write a stronger and more respectful rebuttal?

“U proves we listened accurately. R proves we can respond with evidence. A strong rebuttal answers the real other viewpoint, not a weaker version of it.”

Explain why a rebuttal is not an insult or a repeated claim.

Sort viewpoint sentences as FAIR or UNFAIR.

“Unfair: ‘People who care about learning do not understand trade.’”

“Fair: ‘Some readers may argue learning had a greater long-term impact.’”

Language Support: “Some readers may argue that...”

Read the U sentence as if you held that viewpoint. Respect the idea, do not attack the person.



Refine the Claim

Enrichment · Write in your notebook

Challenge: Write a fair U and a strong R.

Then decide whether the other viewpoint reveals a weakness in your original claim. Revise the claim if needed and explain why refinement makes the argument stronger.

Another reader would agree that I represented the viewpoint accurately.

My rebuttal responds to the exact point.

My claim remains clear or becomes more precise.



★ 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
Explain U, Understanding Others, and R, Rebuttal in CREATURES.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Represent another viewpoint accurately, respectfully, and specifically.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Answer the actual point with reasoning or evidence.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Keep my central claim clear while writing a rebuttal.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Refine my claim when another viewpoint reveals a weakness.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it

★ Citizenship Connection

Good Citizens · Our Community & Country

★ Citizenship in Action

“Because traders knew they could travel safely, more merchants visited Mali.” “During his pilgrimage, Mansa Musa gave away large amounts of gold to people in need.”

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: Argue whether protecting trade or supporting learning had the greater long-term impact on Mali.

LOW

Some people think learning is dumb.

What works: The sentence signals that another view exists.

What needs improvement: It misrepresents the viewpoint and uses dismissive wording. It does not explain the real reason that could support learning.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: Argue whether protecting trade or supporting learning had the greater long-term impact on Mali.

MEDIUM

Some people think learning was better. They are wrong.

What works: The response names learning as another position.

What needs improvement: The viewpoint is vague, and the rebuttal neither answers the point respectfully nor uses reasoning or evidence.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: Argue whether protecting trade or supporting learning had the greater long-term impact on Mali.

HIGH

Some readers may argue that supporting learning had the greater long-term impact because Timbuktu became a respected center of study. That point is reasonable; however, protected trade affected the kingdom more broadly by bringing more merchants, goods, and wealth into Mali.

What works: The viewpoint is accurate and specific, the response is respectful, and the rebuttal answers the actual point with passage evidence while keeping the original claim clear.

★ **This is our target!**