



THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC



Module 4

Seeing the Structure Through Color

Grade 4 · Cluster 5

Tackling TEKS · Reading & Writing

4.11(B)(ii) · 4.12(B)(i) · 4.12(B)(ii) · 4.12(B)(iii) · 4.11(C)(i-vi) · 4.11(D)(i) · 4.11(D)(vi)-(xvii) · 4.11(D)(xxi)-(xxix) · 4.11(D)(xxxiii)-(xxxv)



★ Meet Our Week!

★ Daily Deck

Week 4 · Very High Stamina · Cluster 5 (ECR Paired Passages)

I Will...

- I will read both passages closely and talk about relationships between ideas.
- I will use balanced evidence, explain my thinking, and revise for clarity.
- I will color by sentence job, not by paragraph location alone.
- I will label and justify each color in the complete exemplar.

I Can...

- I can identify and explain the job of every sentence in a complete ECR through color-coding.
- I can distinguish evidence from explanation by asking what each sentence does.
- I can explain how the introduction and conclusion mirror each other in opposite directions.
- I can use the complete color pattern to identify missing parts and revise weak sections.



See the Structure Through Color

★ Daily Deck

Day 1 · Gather & Reveal

Passages: “Looking Back to Move Forward” & “Voices That Shaped Texas”

Informative · Very High Stamina · the ECR color map

How does color-coding a complete exemplar reveal the job of every sentence and the structure of a strong paired-passage ECR?

When students can see the parts of good writing, they begin to believe they can build good writing.

Read as a writing analyst.



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 Complete ECR Color Map

Day 1 · Reveal

★ Daily Deck

1

INTRODUCTION

Blue, Yellow, Green: statement of purpose, evidentiary transition, thesis (central idea).

2

MAIN BODY

Green, Yellow, Red, Blue, when a significant inference is present: reason, evidence, explanation, significant inference.

3

CONCLUSION

Green, Yellow, Blue: R1 restatement, R2 reference back, R3 reflection.

The paper opens wide, narrows to the answer, develops proof, then widens into reflection. Ask: Is this sentence opening, answering, proving, explaining, inferring, or reflecting?

Color by sentence job, not by paragraph location alone.



Catch and Correct the Color Mistake

★ Daily Deck

Day 1 · Reveal (cont.)

What Job Is It?

Round 1 ‘They began to believe that citizens should have a voice’ is red because it explains the evidence.

Answer Incorrect. It is yellow evidence because it is a specific detail from the passage.

Signal “catch” when you hear an error, then repair it:
It is actually ___ because ___.

Watch Me!

Round 2: ‘When people study, create, and share what matters, their influence can continue long after one moment ends,’ is blue because it reflects on the big picture.

Answer: Correct. Blue holds the broad thinking; in the conclusion it opens the thinking back up again with reflection.

Is this sentence proving something, or is it telling why the proof matters? That will usually help you decide.



Color Quest: Build the Paper Map

★ Daily Deck

Day 2 · Attempt · Partner Game

Passages: “Looking Back to Move Forward” & “Voices That Shaped Texas”

How to Play

- 1 Capture sentence strips from the exemplar.
- 2 Sort by job and color.
- 3 Read each strip and place it on the correct color mat.
- 4 Rebuild the paper from introduction to conclusion.

Success Check: *Do not just color the sentence. Identify the job of the sentence.*

With Your Partner...

Introduction

Blue: Statement of Purpose. Yellow: Evidentiary Transition. Green: thesis (central idea).

then the body

Main Body & Conclusion

Main Body: Green = Reason or Way, Yellow = Evidence, Red = Explanation, Blue = Significant Inference. Conclusion: Green = R1, Yellow = R2, Blue = R3.

Why is color-coding a helpful habit for writers?

Why is the statement of purpose
blue in the introduction?

How is the yellow sentence
different in the introduction and
the main body?

Why is explanation red?

How are the introduction and
conclusion opposite?

Student Directions: “Color each sentence. Label SP, ET, TH, R, EV, EX, SI, R1, R2, or R3. Write one justification per paragraph explaining why the colors fit.”



What Makes the Structure Visible?

★ Daily Deck

Day 3 · Discuss (cont.)

How does color-coding a complete exemplar reveal the job of every sentence and the structure of a strong paired-passage ECR?

**intro: Blue,
Yellow, Green**

**body: Green, Yellow,
Red, Blue**

**conclusion: Green,
Yellow, Blue**

Because when we can see the structure in a strong model, we can start building that same structure in our own writing.



Try It On Your Own!

Day 3 · Use (Independent Practice) · Interactive Notebook

COLOR

Use a clean copy of the exemplar paper. Color-code each paragraph correctly.

LABEL

Label each sentence by job in the margin: SP, ET, TH, R, EV, EX, SI, R1, R2, or R3.

JUSTIFY

Write one sentence at the bottom of each paragraph explaining why the colors fit.

SWEEP

Revise the paragraph by adding, deleting, combining, or rearranging one idea for coherence or clarity. Edit any compound sentence for conjunctions, agreement, boundaries, and commas.

Do not just color it. Prove that you know why the color belongs there.

★ Award & Target!

Day 4 · Award & Target

★ Daily Deck

Award 🏆

Give yourself credit for leveling up your thinking today.

- I was a Color Master today when I...
- One color I understand better now is...
- I used this activity to notice...
- A part of writing that became clearer to me is...

Target 🎯

Celebrate the sentence job or color relationship that became clearest today.

Curiosity Questions

Which color was easiest for me to identify?
Which color was hardest? Do I understand the difference between yellow evidence and red explanation?



Exit Ticket

Day 5 · Educate & Explain to Others

★ Daily Deck

How does color-coding a complete exemplar reveal the job of every sentence in a strong paired-passage ECR?

“Color-coding makes the invisible structure of a strong ECR visible. Blue opens or widens the thinking, yellow connects to evidence, green states the central answer or reason, and red explains why the evidence matters.”

Seeing the complete color pattern helps students identify missing parts, revise weak sections, and understand how the paper opens broadly, narrows to a central idea, develops proof, and widens again in reflection.

Every sentence gives us a clue about its job.

“Does this sentence answer the paragraph point?”

“Does this sentence give proof from the text?”

“Does this sentence explain why the proof matters?”

Support Frame: “Is this introducing the idea, proving the idea, explaining the idea, or reflecting on the idea?”

Does this sentence sound broad or reflective?



Reverse the Rainbow Challenge

Enrichment · Write in your notebook

Challenge: Start with unlabeled colored sentence strips. Infer the sentence job from the color and context. Reconstruct and defend the full ECR sequence.

Why is the introduction not just blue and green? Why is the conclusion not just green and blue?

How does yellow function differently in different parts of the paper?

How does blue function differently in the introduction, body, and conclusion?

Create one new body paragraph that matches the same color pattern.

★ 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
Identify the job of every sentence.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Distinguish evidence from explanation.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Color-code the introduction, body, and conclusion.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Explain the opposite introduction and conclusion pathways.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Revise for coherence and clarity.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it



Citizenship Connection

Good Citizens · Our Community & Country

★ Passages: “Looking Back to Move Forward” & “Voices That Shaped Texas”

“They began to believe that citizens should have a voice.” “He became well known for his role in Show Boat, which was a big achievement at the time.”

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: Explain how each sentence in a complete paired-passage ECR contributes to the paper's structure.

LOW

The sentences have colors. The introduction is blue, yellow, and green. The body has colors too.

What Is Working: The response recalls part of the introduction pattern.

What Needs Improvement: Explain the job represented by each color and address the body and conclusion.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: Explain how each sentence in a complete paired-passage ECR contributes to the paper's structure.

MEDIUM

Blue opens the introduction, yellow gives evidence, green is the answer, and red explains. The conclusion reverses the introduction.

What Is Working: The response names the main color relationships and recognizes the reverse pattern.

What Needs Improvement: Distinguish how yellow and blue function differently in different parts of the paper and support the explanation with sentence-level examples.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: Explain how each sentence in a complete paired-passage ECR contributes to the paper's structure.

HIGH

Introduction Blue: Ideas can continue to shape people long after they first appear. **Yellow:** Looking Back to Move Forward uses Ava's discovery of Renaissance art and government ideas, while **Voices That Shaped Texas** presents artists whose music and achievements influenced Texas culture. **Green:** Together, both passages show that ideas and voices shape communities through learning, expression, and the sharing of culture.

Main Body Paragraph 1 Green: One way the passages show influence is through learning from the past. **Yellow:** In Looking Back to Move Forward, Ava learns that people studied ideas from ancient Greece and Rome and began to believe citizens should have a voice. **Red:** This shows that earlier ideas can inspire new thinking about fairness and freedom. **Blue:** The bigger lesson is that learning from the past can help people imagine new possibilities for the future.

★ This is our target!

Our Strongest Answer! (continued)

Prompt: Explain how each sentence in a complete paired-passage ECR contributes to the paper's structure.

HIGH

Main Body Paragraph 2 Green: Another way the passages show influence is through the sharing of stories and traditions. Yellow: Voices That Shaped Texas explains that Lydia Mendoza sang about hard work, love, and everyday life and that listeners felt connected to her music. Red: Her music reflected experiences people recognized, and Chelo Silva's boleros became favorites of Tejano listeners. Blue: This shows that shared experiences can strengthen culture by helping people feel seen and connected.

Main Body Paragraph 3 Green: A final way the passages show influence is by giving people a voice and breaking barriers. Yellow: The passage explains that Julius Lorenzo Cobb Bledsoe became well known for his role in Show Boat and that his success showed talent could break barriers. Red: His achievement, together with the artists' music bringing people together, shows that creative work can widen opportunity and representation. Blue: When people use their talents courageously, their influence can open doors for others.

Conclusion Green: Both texts show that ideas and voices can influence communities through learning, expression, and shared culture. Yellow: Ava's discoveries about Renaissance thinking and the Texas artists' stories, music, and achievements all support this idea. Blue: When people study, create, and share what matters, their influence can continue long after one moment ends.