



THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC



Module 2

IDEAS AND CHOICES: How Do People Turn Possibility Into Change?

Grade 4 · Cluster 8



Tackling TEKS · Reading & Writing



4.13(A) · 4.13(B) · 4.13(C) · 4.13(D) · 4.13(E) · 4.13(F) · 4.13(G) · 4.13(H) · 4.11(C) · 4.11(D)

★ Meet Our Week!

Week 2 · Very High Stamina · Cluster 8 (Research Convergence)

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- I will ask, “What does this help me prove?” before including evidence.
- I will mark exact source words Q and same-idea/new-words notes P.
- I will explain the decision and action between a cause and its effect.
- I will develop multiple E2 sentences that explain meaning, importance, and proof.

I Can...

- I can gather relevant evidence about ideas, choices, leadership, and culture.
- I can tell a direct quotation from a paraphrase and copying too closely.
- I can give source credit for both a quotation and a paraphrase.
- I can write Body Paragraph 2 using R-E1-E2.



AGREE / DISAGREE / IT DEPENDS

Day 1 · Gather & Reveal

★ Daily Deck

Passage 16: “What Shapes a Society? Ideas, Choices, and Culture”

How can an idea or decision change a society?

A good idea automatically creates change. A leader can control every result of a decision.

An idea may influence people long after the person who first had it is gone.



★ 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!

★ Cause, Action, Effect

Day 1 · Reveal

★ Daily Deck

C

CAUSE

What existed?

A

ACTION

What did someone decide?

E

EFFECT

What happened next?

Ideas and choices can change laws, maps, businesses, art, and people's lives.

A thought that no one acts upon may remain only a thought.



Combining Facts Into a Conclusion

Day 1 · Reveal (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

Source facts from Passage 16

“The Magna Carta did not create modern democracy.”

“However, it helped strengthen an important idea: A ruler should also be required to follow laws.”

“Over many centuries, people continued debating how much power leaders should have and what rights people should receive.”

Watch Me!

Conclusion: The Magna Carta did not solve every government problem immediately, but its idea about limiting a ruler’s power influenced later thinking about laws and rights.

Q model: Passage 16 explains, “A ruler should also be required to follow laws.”

P model: According to Passage 16, the Magna Carta strengthened the belief that even rulers must obey laws.





CHANGE CHAIN CHALLENGE

Day 2 · Attempt · Partner Game

★ Daily Deck

Passage 16: “What Shapes a Society? Ideas, Choices, and Culture”

How to Play

- 1 Groups receive mixed cards.
- 2 They must create correct chains: NEED/PROBLEM, IDEA/CHOICE, ACTION, CHANGE
- 3 Each set must remain together in the sequence shown.
- 4 Bonus question: Which chain includes both positive and negative consequences?
- 5 For each chain, students identify the decision and action between the original condition and the result.

With Your Group...

CARD SET A: MAGNA CARTA

Problem: Barons believed King John’s power needed limits.

Idea: A ruler should also be subject to law.

Action: A written agreement was created.

Change: The idea of limiting government power continued influencing later systems.





“Yesterday we learned that the middle of a change story matters.”

“Do not jump from problem directly to result.”

“Researchers explain the decision and action in between.”



R-E1-E2 Planning Sequence

Day 3 · Discuss (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

Another way societies are shaped is through the ideas, choices, and actions of people.

What does it mean?

Why does it matter?

How does it prove the R?

Verify that one E1 is a direct quotation and one is a paraphrase.



★ Try It On Your Own!

Day 3 · Use (Independent Practice) · Interactive Notebook

①

R; one example involving government/leadership

②

second example involving culture/economics/citizenship; at least two sources

③

one direct quote; one paraphrase; multiple E2 sentences

④

Copy the model R exactly.

Students draft Body Paragraph 2 independently.

★ Award & Target!

Day 4 · Award & Target

★ Daily Deck

Award 🏆

Students identify:

- Best cause/effect explanation
- Best use of a direct quote
- Best E2
- Strongest cross-passage connection

Target 🎯

Award: “Your strongest proof is _____
because _____.”

Curiosity Questions

“Where did I explain WHAT happened but forget WHY it mattered?”

How can an idea or decision change a society?

“The challenge was _____.”
“The idea or choice was _____.”
“The action was _____.”
“The immediate change was _____.”
“The longer legacy may have been _____.”

Listeners identify the action that connected the idea to the change.



If a Student Jumps from Cause to Effect

Small-Group Support

★ Daily Deck

Use four cards labeled NEED/PROBLEM, IDEA/CHOICE, ACTION, and CHANGE. Require the student to fill the middle two before explaining the result.

If a Student Lists Facts
Return to the R and ask,
“What does this help you
prove?”

**If a Student Copies Too
Closely**
Use the HABIT: read, cover,
tell, write, and check again.

**If a Student Cannot Develop
E2**
Ask one question at a time:
What does this evidence
mean? Why does it matter?
How does it prove the R?





Intended and Unintended Consequences

Enrichment · Write in your notebook

Using Passage 16, compare the original Texas annexation decision with consequences that reached beyond Texas.

Separate immediate change from longer effects and explain why researchers study both.

**Culture as Historical
Evidence**

Credit the section through
one Q and one P.

Ideas Across Generations

Explain what people did
that allowed the idea to
continue.

★ 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
Gather relevant evidence about ideas, choices, and culture.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Tell a quotation from a paraphrase and copying too closely.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Give source credit for Q and P.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Explain the action between an idea and a change.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Write Body Paragraph 2 with R-E1-E2.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it
Develop E2 to explain meaning, importance, and proof.	Not yet	Getting set	I can do it

★ Citizenship Connection

Good Citizens · Our Community & Country

★ Citizens Participate

“Societies are not shaped only by kings, presidents, generals, wealthy merchants, or famous artists. Ordinary citizens participate too.”

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: How can an idea or decision change a society?

LOW

People make choices that change society. The Magna Carta was written. Texas joined the United States.

What Needs Improvement: The response names events but does not use the assigned R, credit sources, include a quotation and paraphrase, or explain why the evidence matters.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: How can an idea or decision change a society?

MEDIUM

Another way societies are shaped is through people's ideas and choices. The Magna Carta strengthened the idea that rulers should follow laws. This idea mattered because people continued discussing limits on government. Texas annexation also shows that a decision can change history because joining the United States changed political boundaries.

What Needs Improvement: The response begins explaining effects, but it needs the exact model R, at least two credited sources, one direct quotation, one paraphrase, and a more developed explanation of the second example.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: How can an idea or decision change a society?

HIGH

Another way societies are shaped is through the ideas, choices, and actions of people. Passage 16 explains that the Magna Carta did not create modern democracy, but it strengthened the idea that a ruler should also follow laws. This matters because important ideas do not have to solve every problem immediately; later generations can continue developing them. The passage also explains that Texas annexation began as a choice about whether Texas should remain independent or join the United States. That decision eventually affected the relationship between the United States and Mexico and contributed to further conflict. These examples show that an idea or choice can begin in one moment but create effects far beyond the original decision.

★ This is our target!