



THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC



# Module 4

## Proving Reasons with Evidence and Explanation

Grade 5 · Cluster 3

Very High Stamina · ECR

Tackling TEKS · Reading & Writing

5.11(B)(iv) · 5.11(B)(v) · 5.12(B)(i) · 5.12(B)(ii) · 5.12(B)(iii)



# ★ Meet Our Week!

Week 4 · Very High Stamina · Cluster 3 (ECR)

★ Daily Deck

## I Will...

- Build a complete reason, evidence, explanation chain.
- Use a direct quote from one of the two passages.
- Begin my explanation with This and make the quote do a job.

## I Can...

- Use CSI to choose a quotation that proves my reason.
- Introduce evidence with a signal marker.
- Identify definition, expert testimony, and story or anecdote explanation styles.



# The Proof Parade

Day 1 · Gather & Reveal

★ Daily Deck

## Passage 1: “Our Rights, Our Voices”

poem

**Today you will build a proof chain. A reason is a claim. Evidence gives it proof, and explanation tells the reader why that proof matters.**

Explain why the poem and drama show that fairness and voice are important.

**Hey! Hey! Hey! Evidence is on the way! Wow! Wow! Wow! I’m explaining now!**



# ★ 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.

Apply DOT to: fairness · voice · representation · self-government · signal marker.

**Dot the word. Discover the meaning. Drop the dot.**

**C**

**Connects**

point to exact words that match  
the reason

**S**

**Strongly supports**

tell what the quotation proves

**I**

**Important enough**

explain why this detail matters

Signal markers: The poet said, the playwright said, the text stated.

**A quote may be true and still not be the best evidence for this reason.**

# ★ Signal Marker Smoothness

Day 2 · Attempt (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

## Signal Marker + CSI

**Weak** no signal marker

**Strong** CSI-tested

Ask: *Test the quotation against the exact reason.*

## Watch Me!

**Reason:** People need a voice in decisions that affect them.

**Evidence:** The playwright said, “If we live here and follow these laws, we should have a part in making them.”

The C means connects directly. The S means strongly supports. The I means important enough to prove the point.

# ★ TREES and Magnifying

Day 3

★ Daily Deck

**T**

**Thesis  
(Central Idea)**

What am I  
explaining?

**R**

**Reason or Way**

Why is it important?

**E**

**Evidence**

Which quotation  
proves it?

**E**

**Explanation**

What does the  
quote mean and  
how does it work?

**S**

**Summary**

How do I bring the  
idea together?

**Build the proof chain.**



# Build the Proof Chain

Day 3 · Discuss + Use

★ Daily Deck

## Reason, Evidence, Explanation

### Steps

- 1 Begin your explanation with This.
- 2 Tell how the quotation proves the reason rather than repeating it.
- 3 For fair laws, use “They wrote down rights to make things fair,” then explain that laws must protect fairness in real situations.
- 4 For voice, use “People want to be heard,” then explain that people seek a part in decisions affecting their daily lives.
- 5 Name the source and defend the match.
- 6 Write one complete chain with a signal marker, direct quote, explanation beginning with This, and a label: definition, expert testimony, or story/anecdote.

## Build a Reason, Evidence, Explanation Match

Pairs complete three match sets. Partners name the source and defend the match.



# ★ Talk It Over!

Day 3 · Discuss

★ Daily Deck

**Your job is not to match cards that sound nice. Your job is to build a chain that proves a point.**

Begin your explanation with This.

Tell how the quotation proves the reason rather than repeating it.

Partners name the source and defend the match.

A quote may be true and still not be the best evidence for this reason.

**Student Directions:** “Begin your explanation with This, then tell how the quotation proves the reason rather than repeating it.”



# What Makes an Explanation Strong?

Day 4 · Award + Target (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

**A quote may be true and still not be the best evidence for this reason.**

**a signal marker  
that names the source**

**a quote that passes  
CSI for this reason**

**an explanation  
starting with This**

**Strong explanation points back to the quote and tells how it proves the reason.**



# ★ Make the Quote Do Its Job

Day 4 · Award & Target

★ Daily Deck

## Award

Evidence Expert Award: I can make evidence do the job of \_\_\_\_\_.

My strongest proof chain shows

\_\_\_\_\_.

## Target

I can use CSI to choose a direct quotation, introduce it with a signal marker, and explain how it proves my reason.

# ★ Evidence Expert

Day 5 · Explain & Educate

## CHAIN 1

Reason: rights protect people from unfair treatment. *Select a direct quote, add a signal marker, write an explanation beginning with This, and label the style.*

## CHAIN 2

Reason: fair laws help people live more justly. *Select a direct quote, add a signal marker, write an explanation beginning with This, and label the style.*

## CHAIN 3

Reason: people need a voice in decisions that affect them. *Select a direct quote, add a signal marker, write an explanation beginning with This, and label the style.*

Choose a reason first · test the quote with CSI · add a signal marker · begin your explanation with This.



# Exit Ticket

Day 5 · Educate & Explain to Others

★ Daily Deck

Reason: People need a voice in decisions that affect them.

Direct quotation: \_\_\_\_\_

Signal marker: \_\_\_\_\_

CSI defense: It connects because \_\_\_\_\_. It strongly supports because \_\_\_\_\_. It is important enough because \_\_\_\_\_.

Explanation beginning with This: \_\_\_\_\_

Style: definition / expert testimony / story/anecdote





# Name the Thinking

Small-Group Support

★ Daily Deck

**Reason:** Ask what exact idea the student is proving.

*One focused sentence*

*One CSI choice*

*One sentence beginning with This*

*Accurate introduction*

**First choose the exact reason. Next test the quote with CSI. Then say how the quote proves the reason. Your explanation must add thinking.**



# ★ Connect Across Texts

Enrichment

**Challenge:** Compare how each genre carries the idea of voice.

**The poem shows written rights protect fairness; the drama shows people want a voice in making laws.**

Both show that fair communities need rights and participation.

The poem explains protections while the drama presents conversations about representation.

This means fairness and voice support one another because people need both protection and a way to be heard.

# ★ My Progress Tracker

Use this tracker as a private reflection tool. Check one response for each skill after you have practiced it. Be honest so you can see your growth.

| I Can...                                | Not Yet | Growing | Got It |
|-----------------------------------------|---------|---------|--------|
| Name CSI.                               | Not Yet | Growing | Got It |
| Choose a direct quote that passes CSI.  | Not Yet | Growing | Got It |
| Introduce a quote with a signal marker. | Not Yet | Growing | Got It |
| Explain how a quote proves my reason.   | Not Yet | Growing | Got It |
| Use vocabulary about rights and voice.  | Not Yet | Growing | Got It |

# ★ Citizenship Connection

## ★ Fair laws · Voice · Responsibility

A fair community listens carefully, checks the evidence, and explains why a choice supports people. Your proof chain practices that same responsibility.

### Reflect & Discuss

Use a quotation that proves protection or fairness.

Use a quotation that proves representation or self-government.

Explain the impact of shared rights and freedoms.

# Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: Explain why the poem “Our Rights, Our Voices” and the drama “A Voice of Their Own” show that fairness and voice are important.

## **LOW** Level 1

**“Rights are important. The poet said, “These rights protect us every day,” This is good.”**

**What Is Working:** The response names a related idea and includes a quotation.

**What Needs Improvement:** Add a precise reason, a signal marker with punctuation, and thinking that explains the connection.

# Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: Explain why the poem “Our Rights, Our Voices” and the drama “A Voice of Their Own” show that fairness and voice are important.

## **MEDIUM** Level 2-3

**“Rights are important because they protect people. The poet said, “These rights protect us every day,” This means rights help people.”**

**What Is Working:** The response moves beyond a topic and begins a focused claim.

**What Needs Improvement:** Make the relationship more precise and explain how the evidence proves the exact reason.

# Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: Explain why the poem “Our Rights, Our Voices” and the drama “A Voice of Their Own” show that fairness and voice are important.

## **HIGH** Level 4

**“One reason the poem is important is that rights protect people from unfair treatment. The poet said, “These rights protect us every day,” This means the Bill of Rights was designed to guard people and help prevent unfair treatment in their daily lives. The quotation passes CSI because it directly connects to protection, strongly supports the reason, and is important enough to prove it.”**

**What Is Working:** The response is focused, passage-grounded, and explains the evidence-to-idea connection.

★ **This is our target!**