



THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC



Module 3

Understanding Others and Building an Evidence-Based Rebuttal

Grade 5 · Cluster 4

High Stamina · ECR Opinion / Argumentative

Tackling TEKS · Reading & Writing

5.12(C)(i) · 5.12(C)(ii)





Meet Our Week

Week 3 · High Stamina · Cluster 4 (ECR)

★ Daily Deck

First, you will represent another viewpoint fairly. Then you will answer the idea with evidence. We call that mirror first, respond second.

I Will...

- Mirror another viewpoint accurately before I respond.
- Use passage evidence to answer the idea respectfully.
- Explain whether the viewpoint makes me defend or refine the claim.
- Bridge from my rebuttal toward the claim and conclusion.
- Build the argument one CREATURES part at a time.

I Can...

- State another viewpoint so accurately that someone who holds it would agree.
- Write a rebuttal with reasoning and evidence.
- Respond to an idea instead of attacking the person.
- Bridge from a rebuttal back toward my claim.



★ Two Module Passages

Day 1 · Gather

★ Daily Deck

The Garden That Wouldn't Grow

Fiction

Kendrix believes weak plants need more water. Her quick action makes the soil overly wet, prevents roots from getting enough air, and worsens the garden. After examining the soil, she changes her plan and learns that careful observation leads to better decisions.

Words That Changed a Nation

Nonfiction

The thirteen colonies approve the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The document claims that “all men are created equal,” names life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as unalienable rights, and says governments receive power from the consent of the governed. Abigail Adams and other groups question who was included in that promise.

DOT and TRACKS



Dot the Tricky Words

Day 1 · Gather

★ Daily Deck

D

Dot

Place a small dot above any word that seems unfamiliar as you are reading.

O

Discover

Discover the meaning of the word as we learn together through our lessons.

T

Drop

Go back and erase the dot above the word once you know its meaning.

DOT = I am not sure about this word yet.

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





CREATURES U and R

Day 1 · Reveal

★ Daily Deck

U

Understanding Others

state the other viewpoint
accurately and fairly.

R

Rebuttal

answer the viewpoint with
reasoning and evidence.

?

Fairness Check

Would someone who holds the
other viewpoint recognize my
description as accurate?

U = Understanding Others. R = Rebuttal. Fair mirror, evidence-based response.





Watch the Mirror

Day 1 · Reveal

★ Daily Deck

Model viewpoint: Some readers may argue Kendrix was reasonable to water more immediately because the plants looked weak and water is normally necessary for growth.

“I will not call this viewpoint foolish. I will state it so accurately that a reader who holds it would recognize it. Kendrix saw weak plants, the weather was warm, and plants need water. That is the other idea I must understand before I respond.”

Mirror first, respond second.



★ Evidence Answers the Idea

Day 1 · Reveal (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

Mirror Before Reply

- **Mirror first:** State the other viewpoint with its reasonable reason.
- **Respond second:** Answer the idea with reasoning and an exact passage detail.

The rebuttal responds to the idea, not the person.

Modeled U-R Response

U: Some readers may argue that Kendrix was reasonable to water more immediately because plants need water and the leaves looked weak.

R: However, the passage shows that the soil became overly wet and that the roots needed air.

Bridge: Careful observation is therefore the stronger guide when a quick guess could worsen the problem.



MIRROR AND RESPOND

Day 2 · Attempt · Partner Game

★ Daily Deck

MIRROR AND RESPOND Routine

How to Play

- 1** Draw an Other View card and read it fully.
Check: The viewpoint is recognizable.
- 2** Mirror the viewpoint in your own words.
Check: Keep its reasonable reason.
- 3** Run the Fairness Check.
Check: The other person would agree that it is fair.
- 4** Draw an Evidence card or return to the passage.
Check: Choose a relevant, accurate detail.
- 5** Write a rebuttal.
Check: Use reasoning and evidence, not a personal attack.
- 6** Bridge toward the claim.
Check: Defend or refine the claim.
- 7** Switch roles and play another turn.
Check: Both partners mirror and respond.

Sample Other View

Draw an Other View card, state it fairly, pass the Fairness Check, then draw an Evidence card and build a rebuttal.

Some readers may argue Kendrix was reasonable to water more immediately because the plants looked weak and water is normally necessary for growth.

Partner A reads a viewpoint card. Partner B mirrors it using the passage. Partner A confirms whether the mirror is accurate. Partner B then responds with a passage detail and a reason.



Why does a writer mirror the viewpoint before writing a rebuttal?

How can you tell whether your mirror is fair?

What would the person who holds that viewpoint say about your words?

What makes a rebuttal evidence-based?

How does the passage detail answer the viewpoint instead of attacking the person?

Compare the Passages: In the garden, evidence changes a decision. In the history passage, evidence helps a writer recognize both an important ideal and a limitation in its application.



What Makes a Rebuttal Evidence-Based?

Day 3 · Discuss (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

Compare the two passages.

Garden evidence: overly wet soil, roots needing air, and Kendrix learning to gather information before deciding.

Declaration evidence: the promise of equality, the consent of the governed, and groups who were excluded from equal rights.

The rebuttal responds to the idea, not the person.



★ Understand, Then Respond

Day 3 · Use

CLAIM

Step 1: Write the claim: careful observation should guide decisions when the cause of a problem is uncertain.

U

Step 2: Write the U sentence: Some readers may argue Kendrix was reasonable to water more immediately because the plants looked weak and water is normally necessary for growth.

R

Step 3: Write the R sentence: However, the passage shows that the soil became overly wet and that the roots needed air.

BRIDGE

Step 4: Add the bridge: Because observation revealed a condition her assumption missed, gathering evidence before choosing the next action is more reliable.

Write one claim, one U sentence that mirrors a viewpoint, one R sentence with reasoning and evidence, and one bridge toward the claim and conclusion.

★ The Moment the Argument Became Fair

★ Daily Deck

Day 4 · Award

Take a Step Forward If...

Award: The strongest response is fair, evidence-based, respectful, and connected to the claim.

- Your U sentence is recognizable.
- Your R sentence uses a passage detail.
- Your bridge returns to the claim.

Student Award

What can I already do? One viewpoint I represented fairly or rebuttal I wrote successfully, and the evidence in my work:



What Do I Still Need to Grow

Day 4 · Target

★ Daily Deck

Target

Distorted mirror: “Kendrix was careless and foolish to water the garden.”

Unsupported rebuttal: “She was wrong.”

Possible Revision

“Some readers may argue Kendrix was reasonable to water more because the plants looked weak. However, the soil became overly wet and the roots needed air, so careful observation was the stronger guide.”

Student Target

What do I want to practice next? One next step for writing a fair mirror, evidence-based rebuttal, or bridge:



★ Turn and Teach

Day 5 · Explain

★ Daily Deck

1

Mirror First

Mirror the other viewpoint so accurately that the person who holds it would recognize it.

2

Respond Second

Respond to the idea with reasoning and passage evidence.

Use the CREATURES map. Explain how U and R connect Claim, Reasons, Evidence, Argument, Thinking, Ending, and Significance.



Historical Transfer

Day 5 · Transfer

★ Daily Deck

Defend the position that the Declaration's promise of equality was important while accurately acknowledging that many people were excluded from its protections in 1776.

Write a claim, a U sentence about the limitation, an R sentence using paragraphs [6], [13], and [14], and a bridge.

A personal attack or an unsupported denial does not meet the target.



★ Exit Ticket

Day 5 · Transfer

★ Daily Deck

Directions: Read the viewpoint: “Some readers may argue Kendrix was reasonable to water more immediately because the plants looked weak and water is normally necessary for growth.” Use “The Garden That Wouldn’t Grow” to write a fair U sentence, an R sentence with evidence, and a bridge back toward the claim.

Prompt: Defend the position that careful observation should guide decisions while accurately acknowledging the viewpoint that quick action can sometimes seem helpful.

- 1 Understanding Others. Write the other viewpoint accurately and fairly. (3 points)
- 2 Rebuttal. Answer the viewpoint with reasoning and evidence from the passage. (4 points)
- 3 Bridge. Connect the rebuttal back toward the claim and conclusion. (2 points)
- 4 Fairness Check. Explain why someone who holds the other viewpoint would recognize your U sentence as accurate. (1 point)

Total Score: _____ / 10

★ Fair or Unfair Mirror

★ Daily Deck

Small-Group Support · Intervention: Name the Thinking

Intervention Steps

- Step 1** Name the Viewpoint. Read two restatements of the same idea. Students identify which one is fair and explain why the other exaggerates or distorts it.
- Step 2** Build a Rebuttal. Use the two-part frame: “Some readers may think ___ because ___.” Then, “However, the passage shows ___, which supports ___.”
- Step 3** Fix It. Revise a personal attack into an idea-based response. Change “Kendrix was careless and foolish” to a fair viewpoint about why quick watering might seem reasonable. Then add the wet soil and roots needing air as evidence.
- Step 4** Say It. Students rehearse the U and R orally, then write both sentences and a bridge. Ask whether the claim should be defended or refined.

Fair Mirror

“Some readers may think Kendrix was right to water more because the plants looked weak and water is normally necessary for growth.”

“However, the passage shows that the soil became overly wet and that the roots needed air.”

Would someone who holds the view recognize your words?

★ Refine, Don't Retreat

Enrichment: Connect Across Texts

Write the original claim. Consider a strong other viewpoint. Defend or refine. Explain why the revised claim is more precise.

Part 1 Find the Limitation. Compare the garden's quick action and the Declaration's promise of equality. Identify a viewpoint that raises a reasonable concern in each passage.

Part 2 Build U and R. Students write an accurate U sentence, select paragraphs [6], [13], [14], and [15] as evidence, and write a rebuttal that explains why the ideals still mattered while the application needed to expand.

Part 3 Refine. Students may refine "The Declaration immediately created equality for everyone" to "The Declaration established important principles, but the nation needed to expand how those principles applied to different groups." The refinement keeps the important claim and adds a valid condition.

Expert Reflection Have students explain whether the evidence made them defend or refine the claim, and why.

★ My Progress Tracker

Directions: This tracker is for you. As you read and write this week, check the box that matches your independence.

I Can...	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Represent another viewpoint accurately and fairly.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Write a rebuttal that answers the viewpoint with reasoning and evidence.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Respond to the idea instead of attacking the person.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Bridge from a rebuttal back toward the claim.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Decide whether a valid viewpoint should make me defend or refine my claim.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!

★ Citizenship Connection

Respectful disagreement, rights, equality, and the common good.

- ★ **A writer can acknowledge a concern without surrendering a claim, just as the passage recognizes important ideals and their unequal application.**

The Declaration was approved on July 4, 1776, after colonists debated British rule, rights, and government. Citizens need to hear another view accurately, check evidence, and answer ideas without attacking people.

Reflect & Discuss

How can people use evidence and fairness when they disagree about rights or decisions?

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: Defend the position that careful observation should guide decisions while accurately acknowledging the viewpoint that quick action can sometimes seem helpful.

LOW Level 1

“Some people think Kendrix was wrong and dumb to water so much.”

What the student did successfully: The student tried to name another viewpoint.

What is missing: The mirror is unfair, it mocks the other side, and there is no evidence-based rebuttal.

Why it falls at this level: The response does not represent a reasonable viewpoint that a reader could recognize.

Exact next instructional step: State the other viewpoint fairly: Some readers may argue Kendrix was reasonable to water more because the plants looked weak. Then add evidence.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: Defend the position that careful observation should guide decisions while accurately acknowledging the viewpoint that quick action can sometimes seem helpful.

MEDIUM Level 2-3

“Some readers may argue Kendrix was reasonable to water more because the plants looked weak. However, she should have waited.”

What the student did successfully: The student mirrors the viewpoint accurately and begins a respectful rebuttal.

What is missing: The rebuttal lacks passage evidence and does not explain why waiting was stronger.

Why it falls at this level: The U is fair, but the R is only a conclusion.

Exact next instructional step: Add evidence: the soil became overly wet and the roots needed air. Explain how that detail answers the viewpoint.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: Defend the position that careful observation should guide decisions while accurately acknowledging the viewpoint that quick action can sometimes seem helpful.

HIGH Level 4

Claim: Careful observation should guide decisions when the cause of a problem is uncertain.

Understanding Others: Some readers may argue that Kendrix was reasonable to water more immediately because plants need water and the leaves looked weak.

Rebuttal: That concern makes sense at first; however, the passage shows that the soil was already overly wet and that the roots needed air.

Bridge: Because observation revealed a condition her assumption missed, gathering evidence before choosing the next action is more reliable.

Why it works: It represents the other viewpoint fairly, answers it with reasoning and passage evidence, and bridges back to the claim.

★ **This is our target!**