

G R A D E 4

Graphic Organizers for Writing



Aligned to Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)
19 TAC 110.6 English Language Arts and Reading

The Writing Academy®, LLC

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Graphic organizers in this collection are aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 4 (19 TAC 110.6).

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Why We Use Graphic Organizers

What Are Graphic Organizers?

Graphic organizers are visual tools that help students organize their thinking before, during, and after writing. They provide a structured framework that makes abstract ideas visible and manageable. When students can see how ideas connect, they write with greater clarity and confidence.

Why Do They Matter for Writing?

Research in literacy education consistently shows that students who plan before writing produce stronger compositions. Graphic organizers support this planning by helping students:

- Identify and organize their thesis (central idea) and supporting details
- Select and evaluate evidence from texts
- Structure their writing to match the demands of different genres
- Revise and edit with purpose
- Build independence as writers over time

How to Use This Collection

Each organizer in this collection is aligned to a specific Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standard for Grade 4 English Language Arts. The organizers are grouped by strand so teachers can quickly find the right tool for the right lesson.

Every organizer includes a blank, reproducible student page followed by a filled model example. The model shows students what quality work looks like and gives teachers a reference for instruction.

These organizers are designed to be used across multiple writing experiences throughout the year. Students benefit most when they use the same organizer repeatedly, building familiarity and fluency with each structure.

A Note on the TEKS Strands

This collection covers four TEKS strands central to writing instruction in Grade 4:

- Strand 7: Response Skills (analyzing and responding to texts)
- Strand 11: Composition (the writing process, including revising and editing)
- Strand 12: Genres (informational, argumentative, correspondence, and literary)
- Strand 13: Inquiry and Research

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Chapter 1

Response Skills (Strand 7)

TEKS Strand 7: Response Skills

Organizers in This Chapter:

- CSI Rate the Evidence
- DEEP FACTS Explanations
- TRACKS Evidence Sorter
- “The text states...” Citation Frame
- Paraphrase Organizer

CSI

Rate the Evidence

C = Connects to the prompt | **S = Supports the thesis (central idea)** | **I = can Infer more ideas**

Circle the rating for each piece of evidence: 1 = Weak, 2 = Medium, 3 = Strong

Paragraph where evidence is found:

Evidence #1:

C = (1) (2) (3)

S = (1) (2) (3)

I = (1) (2) (3)

Paragraph where evidence is found:

Evidence #2:

C = (1) (2) (3)

S = (1) (2) (3)

I = (1) (2) (3)

Paragraph where evidence is found:

Evidence #3:

C = (1) (2) (3)

S = (1) (2) (3)

I = (1) (2) (3)

Name: _____

Date: _____

CSI

Rate the Evidence

MODEL EXAMPLE

Based on "A Promise Written Long Ago" (The Writing Academy®)

C = Connects to the prompt | **S = Supports the thesis (central idea)** | **I = can Infer more ideas**

Circle: 1 = Weak, 2 = Medium, 3 = Strong

Paragraph where evidence is found: 1

Evidence #1:

"The king collected heavy taxes and made unfair decisions."

C = 1 2 3

Directly connects to the prompt about fairness

S = 1 2 3

Supports the thesis (central idea) about limiting power

I = 1 2 3

We can infer why the barons acted

Paragraph where evidence is found: 3

Evidence #2:

"It said that the king had to follow the law, just like everyone else."

C = 1 2 3

Directly connects to the question of fairness

S = 1 2 3

Supports the thesis (central idea) that rules should apply to everyone

I = 1 2 3

We can infer this was a new idea at the time

Paragraph where evidence is found: 5

Evidence #3:

"Leaders in the United States used similar ideas when creating the U.S. Constitution."

C = 1 2 3

Connects to the prompt but shifts to a different time

S = 1 2 3

Supports the idea that the Magna Carta mattered

I = 1 2 3

We can infer the Magna Carta changed governments everywhere

Name: Model Student

Date: _____

DEEP FACTS

Explanation Types

Use DEEP FACTS to choose the best way to explain your evidence. Write your explanation below.

Letter	Type	What It Means
D	Definition	Clearly explains what something is
E	Example & Illustration	Specific examples to clarify
E	Expert Testimony	Insights from experts for credibility
P	Process / Step-by-Step	Breaks a concept into sequential steps
F	Facts & Statistics	Data or factual information
A	Analogy	Compares an unfamiliar concept to a familiar one
C	Comparison & Contrast	Similarities and differences
T	Tipping Point	Cause and effect: why something happens and its results
S	Story / Anecdote	Brief personal or historical story

My Evidence:

Explanation Type I Chose (circle one): D E E P F A C T S

My Explanation:

Name: _____

Date: _____

DEEP FACTS

Explanation Types

MODEL EXAMPLE

Based on "A Promise Written Long Ago" (The Writing Academy®)

Use DEEP FACTS to choose the best way to explain your evidence.

Letter	Type
D	Definition
E	Example & Illustration
E	Expert Testimony
P	Process / Step-by-Step
F	Facts & Statistics
A	Analogy
C	Comparison & Contrast
T	Tipping Point
S	Story / Anecdote

My Evidence:

"The Magna Carta was important because it limited the king's power. It said that the king had to follow the law, just like everyone else."

Explanation Type I Chose: **T** (Tipping Point)

My Explanation:

Because the barons were tired of unfair treatment, they forced King John to agree to the Magna Carta. This caused a change: the king could no longer make decisions without following the law. The effect was that people gained rights they had not had before, and the idea of fairness spread to other governments.

Name: Model Student

Date: _____

TRACKS

Evidence Sorter

Sort your evidence into the TRACKS categories. Write the paragraph number and the evidence.

T Time Age, era, dates, cultural details, or historical details	Para # Evidence from the text
R Reactions Reactions, solutions, resolutions, or effects	Para # Evidence from the text
A Actions Actions, problems, conflicts, or causes	Para # Evidence from the text
C Character, Concept, Creature Names of characters/people/animals, or major concepts	Para # Evidence from the text
K Key Knowledge All other important info needed for meaning	Para # Evidence from the text
S Scenery / Setting Setting characteristics through the five senses	Para # Evidence from the text

Name: _____

Date: _____

TRACKS

Evidence Sorter

MODEL EXAMPLE

Based on "A Promise Written Long Ago" (The Writing Academy®)

T Time	Para 1 <i>"In the year 1215, a very important document called the Magna Carta was created in a place called Runnymede, England."</i>
R Reactions	Para 4 <i>"People were tired of unfair treatment and wanted change."</i>
A Actions	Para 1 <i>"The king collected heavy taxes and made unfair decisions."</i>
C Character, Concept, Creature	Para 2 <i>"The barons wanted the king to follow rules."</i>
K Key Knowledge	Para 3 <i>"It said that the king had to follow the law, just like everyone else."</i>
S Scenery / Setting	Para 1 <i>"Runnymede, England."</i>

Name: ____ Model Student _____

Date: _____

“The text states...”

Citation Frame

Use this frame to practice citing evidence correctly in your writing.

The text states,

Write the exact words from the passage inside quotation marks.

This means

Explain what the evidence means in your own words.

This is important because

Tell why this evidence matters to your thesis (central idea).

Name: _____

Date: _____

“The text states...”

Citation Frame

MODEL EXAMPLE

Based on “A Promise Written Long Ago” (The Writing Academy®)

The text states,

“Even today, the Magna Carta reminds us that rules should apply to everyone and that people deserve to be treated fairly.”

This means

The author is saying that the ideas in the Magna Carta are still important, even though the document was written over 800 years ago. The belief that everyone should follow the same rules and that people deserve fair treatment continues to shape governments.

This is important because

This evidence supports the thesis (central idea) that the Magna Carta changed how people think about fairness. The document did not just matter in 1215. Its ideas about limiting power and protecting rights influenced the U.S. Constitution and still guide how governments work today.

Name: ____ Model Student _____

Date: _____

Paraphrase Organizer

Restate the author's idea in your own words. Keep the meaning. Change the words.

Original Text (copy the exact words from the passage):

Key Idea (what is the author saying?):

My Paraphrase (same meaning, my own words):

Check: Does my version keep the same meaning? Yes / No

Name: _____

Date: _____

Paraphrase Organizer

MODEL EXAMPLE

Based on "A Promise Written Long Ago" (The Writing Academy®)

Original Text:

"The Magna Carta was important because it limited the king's power. It said that the king had to follow the law, just like everyone else. It also protected certain rights of the people."

Key Idea:

The Magna Carta set limits on what the king could do and gave people important protections.

My Paraphrase:

The Magna Carta mattered because it stopped the king from having complete control. It required the king to obey the same laws as everyone else, and it gave people rights they had not had before.

Check: Does my version keep the same meaning?

Yes. Both versions say the Magna Carta limited the king's power, required him to follow laws, and protected the rights of people.

Name: Model Student

Date: _____

Chapter 2

Composition (Strand 11)

TEKS Strand 11: Composition

Organizers in This Chapter:

- I-Write Plan Level 1
- I-Write Plan Level 3
- Expanded I-Write Plan
- Magnifying Practice
- ECR Planning Path
- Prewriting Idea Web
- SCR Ladder Planner
- Draft to Final Path
- Publishing Reflection
- Add, Delete, Combine, Rearrange (Revision)
- Word Choice Upgrade Chart
- Sentence Combining Practice
- Editing Checklist
- Sentence Weather Symbols
- Verb Tense Timeline

I-Write Plan

Level 1: Getting Started

Use this plan to organize your ideas before you write.

What is the prompt asking me to do?

My Thesis (Central Idea):

Reason or Way #1:

Reason or Way #2:

How will I end my writing?

Name: _____

Date: _____

I-Write Plan

Level 1: Getting Started

MODEL EXAMPLE

Based on "A Promise Written Long Ago" (The Writing Academy®)

What is the prompt asking me to do?

The prompt asks: Why was the Magna Carta important? I need to explain its importance using evidence from the text.

My Thesis (Central Idea):

The Magna Carta was important because it limited the king's power and gave people rights that shaped governments for centuries.

Reason or Way #1:

The Magna Carta set rules that even the king had to follow, which meant he could not treat people unfairly.

Reason or Way #2:

The ideas from the Magna Carta influenced other governments, including the United States Constitution.

How will I end my writing?

The Magna Carta reminds us that fairness and justice are ideas worth protecting, no matter how much time passes.

Name: Model Student

Date: _____

I-Write Plan

Level 3: Adding Evidence and Explanation

Plan your thesis (central idea), reasons, evidence, and explanations.

My Thesis (Central Idea):

Body Paragraph 1

Reason or Way:

Evidence (from the text):

Explanation (in my own words):

Body Paragraph 2

Reason or Way:

Evidence (from the text):

Explanation (in my own words):

Name: _____

Date: _____

I-Write Plan

Level 3: Adding Evidence and Explanation

MODEL EXAMPLE

Based on "A Promise Written Long Ago" (The Writing Academy®)

My Thesis (Central Idea):

The Magna Carta was important because it limited the king's power and gave people rights that shaped governments for centuries.

Body Paragraph 1

Reason or Way:

The Magna Carta set rules the king had to follow.

Evidence:

"It said that the king had to follow the law, just like everyone else. It also protected certain rights of the people."

Explanation:

This shows that the Magna Carta changed the way power worked. Before, the king could do whatever he wanted, but the document made him follow the same laws as everyone else.

Body Paragraph 2

Reason or Way:

The ideas from the Magna Carta influenced other governments.

Evidence:

"Leaders in the United States used similar ideas when creating the U.S. Constitution."

Explanation:

Hundreds of years later, people still looked to the Magna Carta when building new governments. This proves the document's ideas about fairness did not belong to just one time or place.

Name: Model Student

Date: _____

Expanded I-Write Plan

Full ECR Planning

Plan your introduction (SET), two body paragraphs, and conclusion (RRR).

INTRODUCTION (SET)

S: Statement of Purpose (broad opening):

E: Evidentiary Transition (bridge sentence):

T: Thesis (Central Idea) (specific answer):

BODY PARAGRAPH 1

Reason or Way:

Evidence:

Explanation:

Significance:

BODY PARAGRAPH 2

Reason or Way:

Evidence:

Explanation:

Significance:

CONCLUSION (RRR)

R1: Restate the thesis (central idea):

R2: Refer back to the evidence:

R3: Reflect on the big picture:

Name: _____

Date: _____

Expanded I-Write Plan

Full ECR Planning

MODEL EXAMPLE

Based on "A Promise Written Long Ago" (The Writing Academy®)

INTRODUCTION (SET)

S: Statement of Purpose:

Throughout history, people have worked to create rules that protect fairness and limit the power of leaders.

E: Evidentiary Transition:

One of the earliest and most important examples of this is the Magna Carta, a document created in England in 1215.

T: Thesis (Central Idea):

The Magna Carta was important because it limited the king's power and gave people rights that shaped governments for centuries.

BODY PARAGRAPH 1

Reason:

The Magna Carta set rules the king had to follow.

Evidence:

"It said that the king had to follow the law, just like everyone else."

Explanation:

Before the Magna Carta, the king could make decisions without following any rules. This document changed that by requiring the king to obey the law.

Significance:

This means the Magna Carta introduced the idea that no person is above the law.

BODY PARAGRAPH 2

Reason:

The ideas from the Magna Carta influenced other governments.

Evidence:

"Leaders in the United States used similar ideas when creating the U.S. Constitution."

Explanation:

Hundreds of years after the Magna Carta was written, its ideas about fairness and limited power still mattered.

Significance:

This shows that one document can shape how people think about justice across many generations.

CONCLUSION (RRR)

R1: Restate:

The Magna Carta was important because it limited the king's power and gave people lasting rights.

R2: Refer:

The evidence shows that the document changed how power worked in England and later influenced the U.S. Constitution.

R3: Reflect:

When people stand up for fairness, their actions can shape the world for centuries.

Name: Model Student

Date: _____

Magnifying Practice

Looking Closely at Your Writing

Choose one sentence from your draft. Magnify it by adding details, stronger words, or clearer ideas.

My Original Sentence:

Add a Detail

What detail could I add to help the reader see, hear, or feel more?

Upgrade a Word

Which word could I replace with a stronger or more specific word?

Clarify the Idea

How can I make this sentence clearer for the reader?

My Magnified Sentence:

Name: _____

Date: _____

Magnifying Practice

Looking Closely at Your Writing

MODEL EXAMPLE

Model student writing about "A Promise Written Long Ago" (all quoted sentences are the model student's own writing)

My Original Sentence:

The barons were upset with the king.

Add a Detail

The barons were upset because King John collected heavy taxes and made unfair decisions that affected people across England.

Upgrade a Word

Change "upset" to "frustrated" to show a deeper feeling that led to action.

Clarify the Idea

The barons believed the king had too much power, so they forced him to meet them at Runnymede to agree to rules that would protect the people.

My Magnified Sentence:

The frustrated barons forced King John to meet them at Runnymede because he had collected heavy taxes and made unfair decisions, and they believed even a king should follow rules.

Name: Model Student

Date: _____

ECR Planning Path

Plan your Extended Constructed Response step by step.

Step 1: Read the Prompt

What is the prompt asking?

Step 2: Write Your Thesis (Central Idea)

What is your specific answer?

Step 3: Choose Your Reasons or Ways

What are two reasons or ways?

Step 4: Find Evidence

What evidence supports each reason?

Step 5: Explain the Evidence

What does the evidence mean? Why does it matter?

Step 6: Write Your Conclusion

Restate, refer, reflect.

Name: _____

Date: _____

ECR Planning Path

MODEL EXAMPLE

Based on "A Promise Written Long Ago" (The Writing Academy®)

Step 1: Read the Prompt

Why was the Magna Carta important? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Step 2: Thesis (Central Idea)

The Magna Carta was important because it limited the king's power and gave people rights that shaped governments for centuries.

Step 3: Reasons or Ways

1) It set rules the king had to follow. 2) Its ideas influenced other governments.

Step 4: Evidence

1) "It said that the king had to follow the law, just like everyone else." 2) "Leaders in the United States used similar ideas when creating the U.S. Constitution."

Step 5: Explanation

1) The king could no longer do whatever he wanted. 2) The ideas lasted hundreds of years and helped build other governments.

Step 6: Conclusion

R1: The Magna Carta limited power and gave lasting rights. R2: Evidence shows it changed England and influenced the Constitution. R3: Standing up for fairness can shape the world for centuries.

Name: Model Student

Date: _____

Prewriting Idea Web

Write your topic in the center. Add ideas that connect to it.

The diagram consists of seven circles arranged in a web-like structure. A central circle is positioned in the middle of the page. Surrounding it are six other circles, two in each of the three rows above and below the central circle. Each circle contains a label for writing ideas.

Idea 1

Idea 2

Idea 3

My Topic
(write here)

Idea 4

Idea 5

Idea 6

Name: _____

Date: _____

Prewriting Idea Web

MODEL EXAMPLE

Based on "A Promise Written Long Ago" (The Writing Academy®)

Unfair taxes and decisions

Barons forced the king to meet

Rules the king had to follow

Why was the Magna Carta important?

Rights of the people

Influenced the U.S. Constitution

Fairness that lasts today

Name: Model Student

Date: _____

SCR Ladder Planner

Short Constructed Response

An SCR has exactly 3 sentences: thesis (central idea), evidence, explanation.

Sentence 1: Thesis (Central Idea)

Your specific answer to the prompt

Sentence 2: Evidence

A direct quote or detail from the text that supports your thesis (central idea)

Sentence 3: Explanation

Tell what the evidence means and why it matters

Name: _____

Date: _____

SCR Ladder Planner

Short Constructed Response

MODEL EXAMPLE

Based on "A Promise Written Long Ago" (The Writing Academy®)

Sentence 1: Thesis (Central Idea)

The Magna Carta was important because it limited the king's power and protected the rights of the people.

Sentence 2: Evidence

The text states, "It said that the king had to follow the law, just like everyone else."

Sentence 3: Explanation

This shows that the Magna Carta changed how power worked in England. Before the document, the king could make any decision he wanted, but afterward he had to follow the same rules as everyone else, which set an example for governments around the world.

Name: Model Student

Date: _____

Draft to Final Path

Track your writing from first draft to final copy.

1. Prewrite / Plan

Done? ☐

2. First Draft

Done? ☐

3. Revise (Add, Delete, Combine, Rearrange)

Done? ☐

4. Edit (Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar)

Done? ☐

5. Final Copy / Publish

Done? ☐

Name: _____

Date: _____

Draft to Final Path

MODEL EXAMPLE

Model student writing about "A Promise Written Long Ago" (all quoted sentences are the model student's own writing)

1. Prewrite / Plan

I used an I-Write Plan to organize my thesis (central idea) and two reasons about the Magna Carta.

Done? [✓]

2. First Draft

I wrote three paragraphs: an introduction about fairness, two body paragraphs with evidence, and a conclusion.

Done? [✓]

3. Revise

I added a detail about the barons and combined two short sentences: "The king had too much power. The barons wanted change." became "The king had too much power, and the barons wanted change."

Done? [✓]

4. Edit

I checked for capital letters on proper nouns like Magna Carta and Runnymede, correct end punctuation, and spelling.

Done? [✓]

5. Final Copy

I copied my revised and edited writing neatly and read it one more time to check for errors.

Done? [✓]

Name: Model Student

Date: _____

Publishing Reflection

After you finish your final copy, reflect on your writing process.

What is the title of your writing?

What is your thesis (central idea)?

What part of your writing are you most proud of? Why?

What was the hardest part of this writing? How did you work through it?

What would you do differently next time?

Who would you like to share this writing with? Why?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Publishing Reflection

MODEL EXAMPLE

Model student writing about "A Promise Written Long Ago"

What is the title of your writing?

A Promise Written Long Ago: Why the Magna Carta Still Matters

What is your thesis (central idea)?

The Magna Carta was important because it limited the king's power and gave people rights that shaped governments for centuries.

What part are you most proud of?

I am proud of my explanation about how the Magna Carta influenced the U.S. Constitution because it shows the document mattered beyond England.

What was the hardest part?

Choosing the strongest evidence was hard because every paragraph had important details. I had to pick the ones that best supported my thesis (central idea).

What would you do differently?

I would add a paragraph about how the Magna Carta protected the rights of free men, since that was an important part of the document.

Who would you share this with?

I would share it with my social studies teacher because we are learning about how governments are built.

Name: Model Student

Date: _____

Add, Delete, Combine, Rearrange

Revision Chart

Use this chart to revise your draft. For each change, write what you did and why.

Revision Type	What I Changed	Why I Changed It
ADD What new details, sentences, or words did you add?		
DELETE What did you take out because it did not support your idea?		
COMBINE Which sentences did you join to make your writing flow?		
REARRANGE What did you move to a better place in your writing?		

Name: _____

Date: _____

Add, Delete, Combine, Rearrange

Revision Chart

MODEL EXAMPLE

Model student writing about "A Promise Written Long Ago" (all quoted sentences are the model student's own writing)

Revision Type	What I Changed	Why I Changed It
ADD	Added: "The barons knew that if they did not act, the unfair treatment would continue for generations."	It helped explain why the barons took such a bold step against the king.
DELETE	Removed: "England is a country in Europe." It did not help the reader understand why the Magna Carta mattered.	That sentence was not important to the thesis (central idea). It was just background information.
COMBINE	Joined: "The king had too much power. The barons wanted change." into "The king had too much power, and the barons wanted change."	Two short sentences sounded choppy. One longer sentence flows better for the reader.
REARRANGE	Moved the sentence about the U.S. Constitution so it came after the explanation of the Magna Carta's rules.	The reader needed to understand what the Magna Carta did before learning how it influenced other governments.

Name: ____ Model Student _____

Date: _____

Word Choice Upgrade Chart

Find weak or repeated words in your draft. Replace them with stronger, more specific words.

Original Word	Upgraded Word	Why It Is Better

Name: _____

Date: _____

Word Choice Upgrade Chart

MODEL EXAMPLE

Model student writing about "A Promise Written Long Ago"

Original Word	Upgraded Word	Why It Is Better
made	established	Shows the document was formally created
bad	unjust	More precise for unfair treatment
big	significant	Matches the importance of the event
got	gained	More specific action
said	declared	Stronger, more official word
wanted	demanded	Shows the strength of the barons' position
good	fair	Connects to the theme of justice
a lot	considerable	More specific amount

Name: ____ Model Student _____

Date: _____

Sentence Combining Practice

Combine two short sentences into one longer, smoother sentence.

Set 1

Sentence A: _____

Sentence B: _____

Combined: _____**Set 2**

Sentence A: _____

Sentence B: _____

Combined: _____**Set 3**

Sentence A: _____

Sentence B: _____

Combined: _____**Set 4**

Sentence A: _____

Sentence B: _____

Combined: _____**Set 5**

Sentence A: _____

Sentence B: _____

Combined: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Sentence Combining Practice

MODEL EXAMPLE

Model student writing about "A Promise Written Long Ago" (all quoted sentences are the model student's own writing)

Set 1

Sentence A: The king had too much power.

Sentence B: The barons wanted change.

Combined: *The king had too much power, and the barons wanted change.*

Set 2

Sentence A: The Magna Carta limited the king.

Sentence B: It protected people's rights.

Combined: *The Magna Carta limited the king and protected people's rights.*

Set 3

Sentence A: The barons met at Runnymede.

Sentence B: They forced the king to agree.

Combined: *The barons met at Runnymede, where they forced the king to agree.*

Set 4

Sentence A: The document was created in 1215.

Sentence B: It still matters today.

Combined: *Although the document was created in 1215, it still matters today.*

Set 5

Sentence A: The Constitution protects citizens.

Sentence B: The Magna Carta inspired it.

Combined: *The Constitution protects citizens because the Magna Carta inspired it.*

Name: Model Student

Date: _____

Editing Checklist

Check each item after you have edited your writing. Mark Yes, No, or Fixed.

Item	Yes	No	Fixed
Every sentence begins with a capital letter.	☐	☐	☐
Every sentence ends with the correct punctuation mark (. ? !)	☐	☐	☐
Proper nouns are capitalized (names of people, places, titles).	☐	☐	☐
All words are spelled correctly (check with a dictionary if unsure).	☐	☐	☐
Subject and verb agree (the dog runs, the dogs run).	☐	☐	☐
Verb tenses are consistent (past, present, or future throughout).	☐	☐	☐
Commas are used correctly in lists and after introductory words.	☐	☐	☐
Quotation marks are used correctly around dialogue or text evidence.	☐	☐	☐
Apostrophes are used correctly in contractions and possessives.	☐	☐	☐
Each paragraph is indented.	☐	☐	☐
Sentences are complete (no fragments or run-ons).	☐	☐	☐
My writing is neat and ready to share.	☐	☐	☐

Name: _____

Date: _____

Editing Checklist

MODEL EXAMPLE

Model student writing about "A Promise Written Long Ago"

Item	Yes	No	Fixed
Every sentence begins with a capital letter.	✓		
Every sentence ends with correct punctuation.	✓		
Proper nouns are capitalized. <i>Fixed: changed 'magna carta' to 'Magna Carta'</i>		✓	✓
All words are spelled correctly. <i>Fixed: changed 'goverment' to 'government'</i>		✓	✓
Subject and verb agree.	✓		
Verb tenses are consistent. <i>Fixed: changed 'the barons want' to 'the barons wanted'</i>		✓	✓
Commas used correctly.	✓		
Quotation marks used correctly.	✓		
Apostrophes used correctly.	✓		
Each paragraph is indented.	✓		
Sentences are complete.	✓		
Writing is neat and ready to share.	✓		

Name: Model Student

Date: _____

Sentence Weather Symbols

Parts of Speech Practice

Identify the parts of speech in each sentence using Sentence Weather symbols.

Symbol Key:

Sun = Common Noun | Smiley Sun = Proper Noun | Moon = Pronoun | Raindrop = Verb | Two Raindrops = Adverb
 Star = Adjective | Dot = Article | Bolt = Interjection | Cloud = Preposition | Rainbow = Conjunction

Sentence 1:

Write the sentence, then draw weather symbols above each word.

Sentence 2:

Write the sentence, then draw weather symbols above each word.

Sentence 3:

Write the sentence, then draw weather symbols above each word.

Sentence 4:

Write the sentence, then draw weather symbols above each word.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Sentence Weather Symbols

Parts of Speech Practice

MODEL EXAMPLE

Model student writing about "A Promise Written Long Ago"

Symbol Key: Sun=Common Noun | Smiley Sun=Proper Noun | Moon=Pronoun | Raindrop=Verb | Star=Adjective | Dot=Article | Cloud=Preposition | Rainbow=Conjunction

Sentence: The barons forced King John to meet them.

Dot=The | Sun=barons | Raindrop=forced | Smiley Sun=King John | Cloud=to | Raindrop=meet | Moon=them

Sentence: The Magna Carta limited power.

Dot=The | Smiley Sun=Magna Carta | Raindrop=limited | Sun=power

Sentence: People were tired of unfair treatment.

Sun=People | Raindrop=were | Star=tired | Cloud=of | Star=unfair | Sun=treatment

Name: Model Student

Date: _____

Write the same verb in all three tenses. Then write a sentence for each.

Past	Present	Future

[illegible]

Date: _____

Verb Tense Timeline

MODEL EXAMPLE

Model student writing about "A Promise Written Long Ago"

Past	Present	Future
collected	collects	will collect
forced	forces	will force
created	creates	will create
influenced	influences	will influence
protected	protects	will protect

Sentences:

Sentence: The king collected heavy taxes from the people.

Sentence: The barons forced King John to meet them at Runnymede.

Sentence: The barons created the Magna Carta to limit the king's power.

Sentence: The Magna Carta influenced other governments around the world.

Sentence: The document protected certain rights of the people.

Name: Model Student

Date: _____

Chapter 3

Genres (Strand 12)

TEKS Strand 12: Genres

Organizers in This Chapter:

- TREES Organizer
- Genre Compare Chart
- MICE and GET SET Introduction Planner
- CREATURES Argument Planner
- Plot Mountain for Narratives
- LEAVES Poetry Planner
- Paired Passage Venn (HABIT and RRR)

TREES

ECR Writing Plan

T = Thesis | R = Reasons or Ways | E = Evidence | E = Explanation | S = Significant Inferencing

T: Thesis (Central Idea)

Write your specific answer to the prompt.

R: Reasons or Ways

List the reasons or ways that support your thesis (central idea).

E: Evidence

Copy evidence from the text that supports each reason.

E: Explanation

Explain what the evidence means in your own words.

S: Significant Inferencing

Go beyond the text. What bigger idea does this connect to?

Name: _____

Date: _____

TREES

ECR Writing Plan

MODEL EXAMPLE

Based on "A Promise Written Long Ago" (The Writing Academy®)

T = Thesis | R = Reasons or Ways | E = Evidence | E = Explanation | S = Significant Inferencing

T: Thesis (Central Idea)

The Magna Carta was important because it limited the king's power and gave people rights that shaped governments for centuries.

R: Reasons or Ways

1) It set rules the king had to follow. 2) Its ideas influenced other governments, including the U.S. Constitution.

E: Evidence

1) "It said that the king had to follow the law, just like everyone else." 2) "Leaders in the United States used similar ideas when creating the U.S. Constitution."

E: Explanation

The Magna Carta changed how power worked by requiring the king to obey the law. Hundreds of years later, its ideas helped build the U.S. Constitution, proving the document's importance lasted far beyond 1215.

S: Significant Inferencing

This connects to a bigger idea about how standing up for fairness can change the world. When people demand that leaders follow rules, those ideas can last for centuries and shape how other countries govern.

Name: Model Student

Date: _____

Genre Compare Chart

Compare two genres by listing their features side by side.

Genre 1: _____	Genre 2: _____
Purpose	Purpose
Structure	Structure
Language / Tone	Language / Tone
Key Features	Key Features
Example	Example

Name: _____

Date: _____

Genre Compare Chart

MODEL EXAMPLE

Informational	Argumentative
Purpose <i>Inform or explain a topic</i>	Purpose <i>Convince the reader of a claim</i>
Structure <i>Intro, body paragraphs, conclusion</i>	Structure <i>Claim, reasons, evidence, counterargument, conclusion</i>
Language / Tone <i>Objective, factual</i>	Language / Tone <i>Persuasive, logical</i>
Key Features <i>Facts, details, examples</i>	Key Features <i>Claim, reasons, rebuttal, call to action</i>
Example <i>Explaining why the Magna Carta limited power</i>	Example <i>Arguing that fairness rules should apply to all leaders</i>

Name: Model Student

Date: _____

MICE and GET SET

Introduction Planner

MICE: My Inference = Connections I have + Evidence I have found
 SET: S = Statement of Purpose | E = Evidentiary Transition | T = Thesis (Central Idea)

GET SET Introduction

S: Statement of Purpose (broad opening):

E: Evidentiary Transition (bridge sentence):

T: Thesis (Central Idea) (specific answer):

MICE Significance Sentence

Signal phrase: Ultimately, / The big picture is, / From this we can learn that,

Name: _____

Date: _____

MICE and GET SET

Introduction Planner

MODEL EXAMPLE

Based on "A Promise Written Long Ago" (The Writing Academy®)

MICE: My Inference = Connections I have + Evidence I have found

SET: S = Statement of Purpose I E = Evidentiary Transition I T = Thesis (Central Idea)

GET SET Introduction

S: Statement of Purpose:

Throughout history, people have worked to create rules that protect fairness and limit the power of leaders.

E: Evidentiary Transition:

One of the earliest and most important examples of this is the Magna Carta, a document created in England in 1215 that changed how people think about justice.

T: Thesis (Central Idea):

The Magna Carta was important because it limited the king's power and gave people rights that shaped governments for centuries.

MICE Significance Sentence

Ultimately, the Magna Carta is not just a historical document. It is proof that when people stand up for fairness and demand that leaders follow rules, those ideas can shape the world for centuries.

Name: Model Student

Date: _____

CREATURES

Argument Planner

C=Claim | R=Reasons | E=Evidence | A=Argument | T=Thinking | U=Understanding Others | R=Rebuttal | E=Ending | S=Significance

C: Claim

What is your position?

R: Reasons

Why do you believe this?

E: Evidence

What evidence supports your reasons?

A: Argument

How does the evidence prove your point?

T: Thinking

What deeper thinking supports your argument?

U: Understanding Others

What might someone who disagrees say?

R: Rebuttal

How would you respond to the other side?

E: Ending

How will you conclude?

S: Significance

Why does this matter beyond this topic?

Name: _____

Date: _____

CREATURES

Argument Planner

MODEL EXAMPLE

Based on "A Promise Written Long Ago" (The Writing Academy®)

C=Claim | R=Reasons | E=Evidence | A=Argument | T=Thinking | U=Understanding Others | R=Rebuttal | E=Ending | S=Significance

C: Claim

The Magna Carta was the most important step toward fairness in government history.

R: Reasons

1) It was the first document to say a king must follow rules. 2) It influenced governments centuries later.

E: Evidence

"It said that the king had to follow the law, just like everyone else. It also protected certain rights of the people."

A: Argument

Before the Magna Carta, kings could make any decision they wanted. This document proved that leaders must answer to the law.

T: Thinking

When people demand fairness, the rules they create can last for centuries and reach far beyond their own community.

U: Understanding Others

Some might say the Magna Carta only helped powerful barons, not ordinary people.

R: Rebuttal

While the barons led the effort, the document protected rights for free men and set an example that later expanded to protect more people.

E: Ending

The Magna Carta shows that standing up for rules and fairness can change the world.

S: Significance

This matters because it proves that one bold action for justice can shape governments and protect rights for generations.

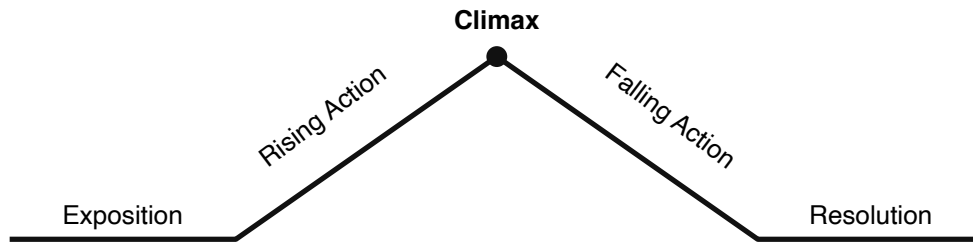
Name: Model Student

Date: _____

Plot Mountain

for Narratives

Plan your narrative by filling in each part of the plot mountain.



Exposition (Beginning):

Rising Action:

Climax:

Falling Action:

Resolution (Ending):

Name: _____

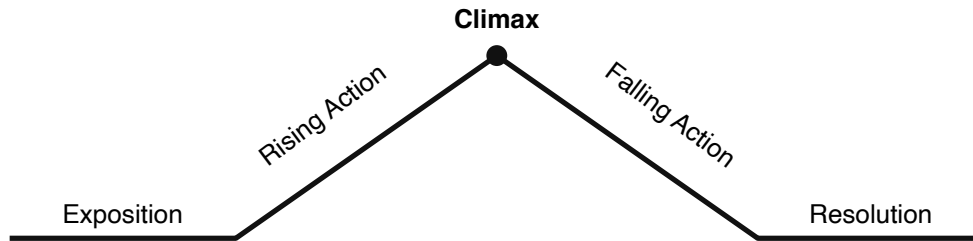
Date: _____

Plot Mountain

for Narratives

MODEL EXAMPLE

Based on "Morning in the Village" (The Writing Academy®)



Exposition:

Tayanita wakes up in her Caddo village near the river in the Piney Woods. Her family lives close to other families, and everyone knows each other.

Rising Action:

Tayanita works in the fields with her mother, learning about the Three Sisters crops. She visits the large mound with her grandfather.

Climax:

Visitors arrive from another village, bringing pottery and tools to trade. Tayanita watches the exchanges and feels that everyone is connected.

Falling Action:

Her people share food in return. The trades bring the two villages together through what they can offer each other.

Resolution:

As the day ends, Tayanita looks around her busy village and realizes it feels like home.

Name: Model Student

Date: _____

LEAVES

Poetry Planner

L = Lines & Layout | E = Emotion & Experience | A = Artistic Language | V = Voice | E = Echo & Sound | S = Significance

L: Lines & Layout

How will you arrange your words, lines, and stanzas?

E: Emotion & Experience

What feeling or experience do you want to communicate?

A: Artistic Language

What imagery, metaphor, or comparison will you use?

V: Voice

Who is speaking? Whose perspective?

E: Echo & Sound

What rhyme, rhythm, or repetition will you include?

S: Significance

Why does the poem matter? What is the larger idea?

Name: _____

Date: _____

LEAVES

Poetry Planner

MODEL EXAMPLE

Student poem inspired by the Magna Carta theme

L = Lines & Layout | E = Emotion & Experience | A = Artistic Language | V = Voice | E = Echo & Sound | S = Significance

L: Lines & Layout

Four lines in two stanzas. Short, measured lines that build toward a message about fairness lasting through time.

E: Emotion & Experience

The feeling of standing up for what is right, even when a powerful person disagrees.

A: Artistic Language

Use comparison: "A promise sealed in wax can outlast a kingdom."

V: Voice

Third person: a narrator reflecting on what the barons did and why it still matters.

E: Echo & Sound

Repeat "they wrote" at the start of two lines. End lines 2 and 4 with near-rhymes.

S: Significance

One act of courage for fairness can shape how people govern and treat each other for centuries.

Name: Model Student

Date: _____

HABIT: Habitual Actions Build Independent Thinkers
RRR: R1 = Restate | R2 = Refer | R3 = Reflect

[illegible]

Date: _____

Paired Passage Venn

HABIT and RRR

MODEL EXAMPLE

Comparing "A Promise Written Long Ago" and "Morning in the Village"

HABIT: Habitual Actions Build Independent Thinkers | RRR: R1=Restate | R2=Refer | R3=Reflect

Passage 1 <i>Informational text about a historical document Set in England in 1215 Focuses on government and law</i>	Both <i>Both show how communities work together Both involve people making decisions Both connect past events to bigger ideas</i>	Passage 2 <i>Narrative about daily life in a village Set in a Caddo community in the Piney Woods Focuses on family, farming, and trade</i>
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Name: ____ Model Student _____

Date: _____

Chapter 4

Inquiry and Research (Strand 13)

TEKS Strand 13: Inquiry and Research

Organizers in This Chapter:

- Research Planner (Place, Problem, People, Transfer)

Research Planner

Place, Problem, People, Transfer

Use this planner to organize your research on a topic.

My Research Question:

Place: Where does this topic happen or matter?

Problem: What problem or question does this topic address?

People: Who is involved or affected?

Transfer: What can we learn that applies to other situations?

Sources I Used:

Name: _____

Date: _____

Research Planner

Place, Problem, People, Transfer

MODEL EXAMPLE

Based on "A Promise Written Long Ago" (The Writing Academy®)

My Research Question:

Why was the Magna Carta important, and how did it influence other governments?

Place:

Runnymede, England. The Magna Carta was created here in 1215. Its ideas later reached the United States and other countries around the world.

Problem:

King John collected heavy taxes and made unfair decisions. The barons believed even the king should follow rules, so they forced him to agree to the Magna Carta.

People:

King John, the barons, the people of England, and later the leaders who created the U.S. Constitution.

Transfer:

When people stand up for fairness and create rules that limit power, those ideas can last for centuries. The Magna Carta shows that one document can shape how governments work across the world.

Sources I Used:

"A Promise Written Long Ago" by The Writing Academy. Social studies textbook section on the Magna Carta. Classroom discussion notes.

Name: Model Student

Date: _____