

PUBLISHED TEXTS

EXACT TEKS WORDING (FROM TEA)

“recognize characteristics and structures of argumentative text by identifying the claim”

“compose argumentative texts, including opinion essays, using genre characteristics and craft”

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME?

An opinion text tells what the writer believes and gives reasons.

A writer can use a true story from life as evidence for an opinion.

When I support my opinion with a story, my reader is more likely to agree.

THIS WEEK’S FOCUS

A Personal Story as Evidence

from “The Whistle” by Benjamin Franklin (1779)

Franklin wants readers to believe one idea: do not pay too much for things you do not need. Instead of just saying it, he tells a true story from his own life as proof. This week we study how a personal story can support an opinion.

This deck teaches **argumentative author craft and composition** across the five RPLD thinking levels:

NOTICE → CHOOSE → SHOW → OWN → DEFEND.



Read the published text.

Benjamin Franklin tells a story from when he was seven. Read it, then read it again. Find the lesson he wants you to believe.

The Whistle (excerpt)

When I was a child of seven years old, my friends, on a holiday, filled my pocket with coppers. I went directly to a shop where they sold toys for children; and being charmed with the sound of a whistle, that I met by the way in the hands of another boy, I voluntarily offered and gave all my money for one.

This, however, was afterwards of use to me, the impression continuing on my mind; so that often, when I was tempted to buy some unnecessary thing, I said to myself, Don't give too much for the whistle; and I saved my money.

SOURCE • PUBLIC DOMAIN

Benjamin Franklin, Letter to Madame Brillon, 1779, as printed in The Oxford Book of American Essays, 1914 (public domain, Project Gutenberg #40196)

I CAN | I can read a published argumentative text and notice the author's craft move.





TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

“I can notice the opinion and the story that supports it.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

“recognize characteristics and structures of argumentative text by identifying the claim”

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Notice the opinion and the story.

Find the sentence that tells Franklin's lesson. Then find the story that proves it.

Lesson: “Don't give too much for the whistle”

Story: at seven, he gave **all my money for one whistle.**

I CAN | I can notice the writer's opinion and the story that supports it.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the detail that best supports the opinion.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Choose the best evidence.

Which detail best proves that Franklin paid too much?

A He “gave all my money for one” whistle.

B He went to the shop on a holiday.

C The whistle was in the hands of another boy.

I CAN | I can choose the detail that best supports the writer’s opinion.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how a story turns into a lesson.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

“recognize characteristics and structures of argumentative text by identifying the claim”

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Show how the story becomes a lesson.

How does Franklin turn one childhood mistake into a rule he used for life?

The mistake: all his money for one whistle.

The rule: Don't give too much for the whistle, so I saved my money.

I CAN | I can show how the writer turns a story into a lesson for the reader.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can support my opinion with a story from my life.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

“recognize characteristics and structures of argumentative text by identifying the claim”

“compose argumentative texts, including opinion essays, using genre characteristics and craft”

Own it. Try the craft move.

Write an opinion. Support it with one short true story from your own life.

Opinion: It is smart to _____.

Story: One time I _____.

So now I _____.

I CAN | I can write an opinion and support it with a true story.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

“I can defend why a story makes an opinion stronger.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Defend the author's choice.

Franklin could have written only “Do not waste money.” Why is the story more convincing?

“Do not waste money.”
vs. a boy who spent all his coppers on one whistle. Which one will you remember?

I CAN

I can defend why a true story makes an opinion more convincing.



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Write your own opinion with a story.

Choose a lesson you believe. Prove it with a true story from your life.

State your opinion in one sentence.
Tell a short true story that proves it.
End by saying what you do now because of it.

I CAN | I can write my own opinion and prove it with a story from my life.



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Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE The lesson is “**Don’t give too much for the whistle.**” The story is the day seven-year-old Franklin spent all his coppers on one whistle.

CHOOSE **A.** Giving all his money for one toy is the clearest proof that he paid too much.

SHOW The story stayed in his mind. Every time he wanted something he did not need, he remembered the whistle and saved his money instead.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **It is smart to read the directions first. One time I built a kite without reading them, and it fell apart. Now I always read the directions.**

DEFEND A rule alone is easy to forget. The story lets readers picture the mistake and feel the regret, so they remember the lesson and believe it.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. One example: **Practice is worth it. I missed every free throw at my first game. I practiced every day, and now I make most of them.**



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READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT • FROM “THE PASTORAL BEES” (JOHN BURROUGHS, 1879)

“When a bee brings pollen into the hive, he advances to the cell in which it is to be deposited and kicks it off as one might his overalls or rubber boots, making one foot help the other; then he walks off without ever looking behind him; another bee, one of the indoor hands, comes along and rams it down with his head and packs it into the cell as the dairymaid packs butter into a firkin.”

What does the comparison to a dairymaid packing butter help the reader understand?

- A** Why the bee walks off without looking back
- B** That bees make butter in the hive
- C** How the indoor bee presses pollen tightly into the cell
- D** That dairymaids keep bees



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The answer is C.

A Why the bee walks off without looking back
Walking off is a different action, not the one compared to packing butter.

B That bees make butter in the hive
Bees do not make butter. Butter is only the comparison.

C How the indoor bee presses pollen tightly into the cell
Correct.
The comparison shows the bee pushing and packing the pollen down hard, just as butter is packed.

D That dairymaids keep bees
The text never says dairymaids keep bees.

