

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 argumentative text states a claim the writer wants the audience to accept.

A speaker can move from the past to the present to build up to a claim.

When I organize my reasons in time order, my audience can follow my thinking.

THIS WEEK’S FOCUS

Past, Present, and a Claim

from “The Gettysburg Address” by Abraham Lincoln (1863)

Lincoln begins in the past (four score and seven years ago), moves to the present (now we are engaged), and ends with his claim: it is fitting and proper to honor those who served. This week we study how a speech uses time order to build an argument.

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

NOTICE → CHOOSE → SHOW → OWN → DEFEND.



Read the published text.

President Lincoln gave this short speech in 1863 to honor soldiers of the Civil War. Read it, then read it again aloud.

The Gettysburg Address (excerpt)

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

SOURCE • PUBLIC DOMAIN

Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address, delivered November 19, 1863; Bliss Copy, 1864, as published by Abraham Lincoln Online (public domain)

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



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

“I can notice how a speech moves through time.”

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”

Notice the time words.

Find the words that show the past and the words that show the present.

Past: Four score and seven years ago

Present: Now we are engaged ... We are met ...

I CAN

I can notice the words that move the speech from the past to the present.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the speaker’s claim.”

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”

Choose the claim.

Which sentence states what Lincoln believes the audience should accept?

A It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

B We are met on a great battle-field of that war.

C Our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation.

I CAN | I can choose the sentence that states the claim.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how a reason supports a claim.”

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”

Show how the past supports the claim.

How does the founding idea, all men are created equal, support honoring the soldiers?

The nation was dedicated to an idea.
The soldiers gave their lives that that nation might live.

I CAN | I can show how the speaker connects a reason from the past to the claim.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can build a claim with past and present.”

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 a short speech for your school. Start in the past, move to now, and end with a claim.

Long ago, our school _____.

Now, we _____.

So it is right that we _____.

I CAN | I can write a short speech that moves from past to present to a claim.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

“I can defend why a speaker starts in the past.”

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”

Defend the author's choice.

Why does Lincoln start in 1776 instead of the battle?

Start: the nation's beginning

End: fitting and proper to honor those who served.

I CAN | I can defend why starting in the past makes the claim stronger.

PUBLISHED TEXTS

Write your own short speech.

Choose something your class should do. Build your claim from the past to the present.

Begin with the past.
Move to the present with “now.”
End with your claim.

I CAN | I can write my own speech that uses time order to support a claim.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE Past: **Four score and seven years ago** (87 years earlier, 1776). Present: **Now we are engaged** and **We are met**.

CHOOSE **A.** Lincoln claims it is **fitting and proper** to dedicate the field. The other sentences give facts that lead to it.

SHOW The nation was built on an important idea. The soldiers served so that the nation and its idea could survive, so honoring them is fitting.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **Long ago, our school planted one small oak. Now, that oak shades the whole playground. So it is right that we plant a new tree this spring.**

DEFEND Starting with the founding reminds the audience what the nation stands for. That gives a big reason for the claim, so it feels important, not just sad.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. Check for a past opening, a present middle, and a clear claim at the end.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT • FROM “THE WHISTLE” (BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, 1779)

“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.”

Why did young Franklin give all his money for the whistle?

A He was charmed with the sound of it.

B It was the only toy in the shop.

C He needed it for school.

D His brothers told him to buy it.



PUBLISHED TEXTS

The answer is A.

He was charmed with the sound of it.

A Correct.

The text says he was charmed with the sound of a whistle.

It was the only toy in the shop.

B The shop sold toys for children, so there were other toys.

He needed it for school.

C School is never mentioned.

His brothers told him to buy it.

D His family laughed at him later. They did not tell him to buy it.

