

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?

Writers sometimes argue against an idea other people believe.

A strong argument tells the other idea first, then answers it.

Facts and observations are the best evidence.

THIS WEEK’S FOCUS

Disagreeing with Evidence

from “The Cicada and the Ant” by Jean-Henri Fabre (1921)

Fabre retells a famous fable, then says it could not possibly be true, and proves it with facts farmers see every year. This week we study how a writer disagrees with an idea and uses evidence to prove the point.

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

NOTICE → CHOOSE → SHOW → OWN → DEFEND.



Read the published text.

Fabre was a scientist who studied insects. Here he argues that a famous fable got the facts wrong. Read it twice.

The Cicada and the Ant (excerpt)

The Cicada, says the story, did nothing but sing all through the summer, while the Ants were busy storing their provisions. When winter came he was hungry, and hurried to his neighbour to borrow some food.

Now the insect in this fable could not possibly be a Cicada. La Fontaine, it is plain, was thinking of the Grasshopper and as a matter of fact the English translations usually substitute a Grasshopper for the Cicada.

Every tiller of the soil is familiar with the grub of this insect, which he turns over with his spade whenever he banks up the olive-trees at the approach of cold weather.

SOURCE · PUBLIC DOMAIN

Jean-Henri Fabre, *Fabre's Book of Insects*, retold by Mrs. Rodolph Stawell, Dodd, Mead and Company, 1921 (public domain, Project Gutenberg #67000)

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





TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

“I can notice an idea and the writer’s answer.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Notice the idea and the answer.

Find the idea Fabre disagrees with and the sentence where he answers it.

Idea: the Cicada sang all summer, then was **hungry in winter.**

Answer: **could not possibly be a Cicada.**

I CAN | I can notice the idea the writer disagrees with and the answer.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the strongest evidence.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Choose the best evidence.

Which fact best proves the fable is wrong about the Cicada?

A Farmers dig up the Cicada’s grub in cold weather.

B La Fontaine wrote a book of fables.

C The Ants were storing provisions.

I CAN | I can choose the evidence that best proves the writer’s point.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how evidence proves a claim.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

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Show how the evidence works.

Why does a farmer's spade prove Fabre's point?

**In winter, the Cicada is a grub in the ground.
So a grown Cicada could not go borrow some food.**

I CAN | I can show how a real observation proves the claim.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can answer an idea I disagree with.”

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.

Pick a saying or idea you think is wrong. Tell it, answer it, and prove it with a fact.

Some people say _____.
But that is not true, because _____.
For example, _____.

I CAN | I can write an answer to an idea and support it with evidence.



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TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

“I can defend why a writer tells the other side first.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Defend the author's choice.

Why does Fabre retell the fable before he disagrees with it?

First: says the story ...

Then: could not possibly be ...

I CAN | I can defend why telling the other side first makes an argument stronger.



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Write your own argument.

Choose a common belief you disagree with. Tell it fairly, answer it, and give evidence.

Tell the idea other people believe.
Answer it with your claim.
Prove it with a fact or an observation.

I CAN | I can write an argument that answers another idea with evidence.



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Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE The idea: the Cicada sang all summer and was hungry in winter. The answer: **the insect in this fable could not possibly be a Cicada.**

CHOOSE **A.** Farmers turn over the grub in cold weather, so the Cicada lives underground as a grub, not as a singing adult, in winter.

SHOW Farmers see the Cicada's grub underground in cold weather. A grown Cicada is not around in winter, so it could not ask the Ant for food.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **Some people say goldfish forget everything in three seconds. But that is not true, because scientists have trained goldfish to remember tricks for months.**

DEFEND Retelling the fable shows Fabre understands the other side. Then his evidence clearly answers it, so the reader trusts him more.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. Check for the other idea, a clear claim, and at least one fact.



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READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT · FROM “THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE” (THOMAS JEFFERSON AND THE SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, 1776)

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Which rights does this sentence name as unalienable?

A Money, land, and power

B Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness

C Speech, religion, and the press

D Voting, trial, and travel



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The answer is B.

A Money, land, and power
These are not named in the sentence.

B Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness
Correct.
The sentence names Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

C Speech, religion, and the press
These rights are in the later Bill of Rights, not this sentence.

D Voting, trial, and travel
These are not named in this sentence.

