

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 choose words that make readers feel something.

Vivid language and metaphors can make a claim more persuasive.

Strong word choice still needs a clear claim behind it.

THIS WEEK’S FOCUS

Vivid Language That Persuades

from “The Wild Parks and Forest Reservations of the West”
by John Muir (1901)

Muir does not just say parks are good. He calls going to the mountains going home and calls parks fountains of life. Vivid words make readers feel his claim. This week we study how word choice persuades.

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

NOTICE → CHOOSE → SHOW → OWN → DEFEND.



Read the published text.

John Muir helped protect places like Yosemite. In this essay he argues that people need wild places. Read it twice.

The Wild Parks and Forest Reservations of the West (excerpt)

The tendency nowadays to wander in wildernesses is delightful to see. Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life.

This is fine and natural and full of promise. So also is the growing interest in the care and preservation of forests and wild places in general, and in the half wild parks and gardens of towns.

SOURCE • PUBLIC DOMAIN

John Muir, *Our National Parks*, Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1901, Chapter I (public domain, Project Gutenberg #60929)

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



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

"I can notice persuasive word choice."

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 vivid language.

Find two metaphors Muir uses for wild places.

going to the mountains is going home
parks are fountains of life

I CAN | I can notice the vivid words the writer uses to persuade.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

“I can choose the writer’s claim.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Choose the claim.

Which phrase states Muir’s claim most directly?

A wildness is a necessity

B Thousands of tired ... people

C the half wild parks and gardens of towns

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



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can show how a contrast builds a claim.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

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Show the contrast.

Muir contrasts two kinds of usefulness. What are they?

**useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers,
but as fountains of life.**

I CAN | I can show how a not only ... but contrast makes the claim bigger.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

“I can persuade with vivid word choice.”

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 claim about a place you love. Use a metaphor and a not only ... but sentence.

Claim: _____ is a necessity.
It is useful *not only* for _____, *but* as _____.

I CAN | I can write a claim with a metaphor and a not only ... but sentence.



TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

"I can defend why word choice matters."

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Defend the author's choice.

Muir could have written "Parks are good for people." Why is his version stronger?

"Parks are good for people."

vs. "going to the mountains is going home." Which one would make you visit?



I can defend why vivid language makes an argument more persuasive.



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Write your own persuasive paragraph.

Argue that a place in your community should be protected. Use vivid language.

State your claim clearly.

Use a metaphor and a not only ... but sentence.

End with what readers should do.

I CAN | I can write a persuasive paragraph with vivid word choice.



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Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE going to the mountains is going home and fountains of life.

CHOOSE A. wildness is a necessity is the claim. The rest describes people and places that support it.

SHOW Parks give wood and water, but they also give life and health to people. The **not only ... but** pattern makes the second reason feel bigger.

OWN Answers vary. One example: **Our school library is a necessity. It is useful not only for checking out books, but as a doorway to every place in the world.**

DEFEND A plain sentence states an opinion. Muir's metaphors make readers feel that wild places belong to them, so they want to protect them.

YOUR TURN Answers vary. Check for a clear claim, a metaphor, and a call to action.



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READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT • FROM “LETTER TO GRACE BEDELL” (ABRAHAM LINCOLN, 1860)

“I regret the necessity of saying I have no daughter. I have three sons--one seventeen, one nine, and one seven. They with their mother constitute my whole family. As to the whiskers, as I have never worn any, do you not think that people would call it a piece of silly affectation were I to begin wearing them now?”

Why does Lincoln mention his three sons?

- A** To show his sons have whiskers
- B** To complain about his family
- C** To answer Grace by explaining he has no daughter
- D** To ask Grace to visit his sons



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The answer is C.

A To show his sons have whiskers

The whiskers question is about Lincoln, not his sons.

B To complain about his family

His tone is kind. He is not complaining.

C To answer Grace by explaining he has no daughter

C Correct.

Grace asked about a daughter. He explains his family is three sons and their mother.

D To ask Grace to visit his sons

He never invites her to visit.

