

THE WRITING ACADEMY, LLC

Thinking Level Sentence Frames

Grade 4
Five Levels of Student Thinking



STUDENT SUPPORTS

Thinking Level Sentence Frames: Grade 4

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Student Supports Series

Sentence Frames by Thinking Level

Students use these frames when responding to a passage. Each level builds on the one before it. The "Climb Higher" frame at each level moves the student toward the next level of thinking.

● Foundational

The learner leans on models and support to get started.

- "The text says _____."
- "One part shows _____."
- "This shows _____."
- "The author says _____."
- "I read that _____."
- "This means _____."

CLIMB HIGHER: "According to the text, _____, which tells me _____."

■ Emergent

The learner begins to try the skill with guidance still nearby.

- "According to the text, _____."
- "The passage states _____."
- "This suggests _____."
- "In paragraph _____, the author states _____."
- "The author writes _____."
- "This reveals _____."

CLIMB HIGHER: "As the author notes, _____, which implies _____."

▼ Visible

The scaffolding starts to fade as the skill becomes visible in the work.

- "As the author notes, _____."
- "Specifically, the author writes _____."
- "This implies _____."
- "The text indicates _____."
- "The scene illustrates _____."
- "This detail underscores _____."

CLIMB HIGHER: "Building on this, the author argues _____, which strengthens the idea that _____."

▲ Independent

The learner applies the skill independently and with confidence.

- "Building on this, the author argues _____."
- "The evidence corroborates _____."
- "This pattern strengthens _____."
- "The text establishes _____."
- "Consider the moment when _____."
- "Consequently, _____."

CLIMB HIGHER: "Critically, the passage _____, and synthesizing this with _____ reveals _____."

◆ Reflective

The learner reflects on and defends their own thinking.

- "Through diction, the text constructs _____."
- "The evidence converges on _____."
- "The evidence warrants _____."
- "Critically, the passage _____."
- "The author's move foregrounds _____."
- "Synthesizing reveals _____."

CLIMB HIGHER: "What I notice about my own thinking is _____. This matters because _____."

Evidence Citation Verbs by Stage

Match the verb to the thinking level. Stronger verbs signal deeper engagement with the text.

Level	Introduce the Source	Bring in Evidence	Tie to Claim	Key Verbs
Foundational	"The text says..." "The author says..."	"For example..." "One part shows..."	"This shows..." "This means..."	says, shows, tells
Emergent	"According to the text..." "In paragraph..."	"The passage states..." "The author writes..."	"This suggests..." "This reveals..."	states, explains, describes
Visible	"As [author] notes..." "The text indicates..."	"Specifically, the author writes..." "The scene illustrates..."	"This implies..." "This detail underscores..."	notes, illustrates, demonstrates
Independent	"Building on this, [author] argues..." "The text establishes..."	"The evidence corroborates..." "Consider the moment..."	"This pattern strengthens..." "Consequently..."	argues, contends, corroborates
Reflective	"Through diction, the text constructs..." "Critically, the passage..."	"The evidence converges on..." "The author's move foregrounds..."	"The evidence warrants..." "Synthesizing reveals..."	advances, synthesizes, warrants

"Students see it. Teachers teach it. Students track it."