

EXACT TEKS WORDING (FROM TEA)

“revise drafts to improve sentence structure and word choice by adding, deleting, combining, and rearranging ideas for coherence and clarity”

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME?

Authors choose each word on purpose to say exactly what they mean.

When I notice a strong word, I ask what it shows and why the author chose it.

Choosing precise words makes my own writing clear and interesting.

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

Connotation

from “The Founding Fathers”

Connotation is the feeling a word carries. Two words can mean almost the same thing but feel positive or negative.

This deck teaches **word choice** across the five RPLD thinking levels:

NOTICE → CHOOSE → SHOW → OWN → DEFEND.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

NOTICE

“I can notice a word with a strong feeling.”

EXACT TEKS WORDING

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Notice the word with a strong feeling.

Read this sentence from the passage. Find the word that carries a strong feeling.

“Many colonists felt the British government was unfair because it made decisions without asking for their opinions.”

I CAN I can notice the word with a strong feeling an author chooses.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

CHOOSE

"I can choose the strongest word."

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Choose the strongest word.

Read the sentence. Which word carries the strongest feeling?

"As time passed, more colonists became frustrated."

A. time B. frustrated C. colonists

I CAN I can choose the word with a strong feeling and explain how I know.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

SHOW

“I can explain what a word shows.”

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Show what the word does.

What does the underlined word help the reader understand?

“As time passed, more colonists became frustrated.”

I CAN I can explain what the author's word helps the reader picture or feel.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

OWN

"I can revise with a stronger word."

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Own it. Revise a sentence.

Revise the plain sentence. Replace the neutral word with a word that carries a clear feeling.

Plain sentence: The leaders tried to fix the problem.

Replace the word tried with a stronger word.

I CAN I can revise a plain sentence by choosing a stronger word.

TODAY'S THINKING JOB

DEFEND

“I can explain why the author chose a word.”

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Defend the author's choice.

Why did the author choose determination instead of effort?

“The work of the Founding Fathers required leadership, courage, and determination.”

Why determination and not effort?

I CAN I can explain why an author's word choice is better than a plain word.

Find a word with a strong feeling on your own.

Go back to the passage. Find one more word with a strong feeling. Copy the words and explain what they show.

Go back to the reading.

Find one more word with a strong feeling.

**Copy the exact words. Then explain what the word shows
and why the author chose it.**

I CAN I can find a word with a strong feeling and explain the author's choice.

Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE

unfair. Unfair carries a strong negative feeling. It shows the colonists believed they were being treated wrongly.

CHOOSE

B. frustrated. It carries a clear positive or negative feeling, not just a plain meaning.

SHOW

Frustrated carries a negative feeling of being stuck and unhappy, showing the colonists felt their voices were being ignored.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The leaders fought to fix the problem.

DEFEND

Determination carries a strong positive feeling of willpower and courage. The plain word effort only means they worked at it, without showing how strongly they refused to quit.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “The work of the Founding Fathers required leadership, courage, and determination.” The word courage works well. Courage carries a strong positive feeling of bravery.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

Many of the Founding Fathers devoted years of their lives to public service. They traveled long distances to attend meetings, participated in debates, and spent countless hours discussing important issues.

The word ‘devoted’ helps the reader understand that the Founding Fathers

- A** had no choice about serving their country
- B** only helped when it was convenient
- C** expected rewards for their hard work
- D** gave their time and energy with deep commitment

The answer is D.

- A** **had no choice about serving their country**
Devoted means they chose to give their time willingly, not that they were forced.
- B** **only helped when it was convenient**
The excerpt says they traveled long distances and spent countless hours, showing deep commitment, not convenience.
- C** **expected rewards for their hard work**
Devoted means giving selflessly. The passage does not mention rewards.
- D** **gave their time and energy with deep commitment**
Correct. Devoted shows they willingly gave years of their lives because they cared deeply about the new nation.