

## 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 “Our Rights, Our Voices”

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.

“They wanted justice to guide the land,”

**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.”**

**EXACT TEKS WORDING**

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**Choose the strongest word.**

Read the sentence. Which word carries the strongest feeling?

**“After the Constitution was complete, Many people thought one part was incomplete.”**

**A. Constitution   B. incomplete   C. complete**

**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?

“After the Constitution was complete, Many people thought one part was incomplete.”

**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."

## EXACT TEKS WORDING

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

**Own it. Revise a sentence.**

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

**Plain sentence: The rules were made to be good for people.**

**Replace the word good 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 equal instead of same?

“With equal laws that would always stand.”

Why equal and not same?

**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**

justice. Justice carries a strong positive connotation of moral rightness and equal treatment.

**CHOOSE**

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

**SHOW**

Incomplete carries a negative connotation of something missing, showing people felt the document was not good enough yet.

**OWN**

Answers vary. One strong revision: The rules were made to be fair for people.

**DEFEND**

Equal carries a strong positive feeling of fairness for every person. The plain word same only means alike and does not carry that sense of justice.

**YOUR TURN**

Answers vary. One example: “The Eighth says punishments must be fair,” The word punishments works well. Punishments carries a heavy, negative connotation of suffering and consequences.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

**The Bill of Rights has stood the test, Helping our nation do its best.**

**The phrase 'stood the test' helps the reader understand that the Bill of Rights**

- A** has proven itself over many years
- B** was written too quickly to be useful
- C** only applies to people in certain states
- D** was replaced by a different document

## The answer is **A**.

**A**

**has proven itself over many years**

Correct. Stood the test means it has lasted and continued to work through time.

**B**

**was written too quickly to be useful**

Stood the test means it succeeded, not that it was rushed.

**C**

**only applies to people in certain states**

Stood the test means it endured, not that it is limited.

**D**

**was replaced by a different document**

Stood the test means it lasted, not that it was replaced.