

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

Specific Nouns

from “Words That Changed a Nation”

A specific noun names exactly which person, place, thing, or idea, instead of a general word like thing or place.

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 specific noun.”

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Notice the specific noun.

Read this sentence from the passage. Find the specific noun the author chose.

“Thomas Jefferson wrote most of the document, although other committee members suggested changes before it was presented to Congress.”

I CAN I can notice the specific noun 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 is the most specific noun?

“Abolitionists used its language to argue against slavery.”

A. used B. Abolitionists C. language

I CAN I can choose the specific noun 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?

“Abolitionists used its language to argue against slavery.”

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 general noun with a specific noun.

Plain sentence: The leaders wanted to protect the people's stuff.

Replace the word stuff 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 property instead of things?

“He argued that governments should protect life, liberty, and property.”

Why property and not things?

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

Find a specific noun on your own.

Go back to the passage. Find one more specific noun. Copy the words and explain what they show.

Go back to the reading.

Find one more specific noun.

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

I CAN I can find a specific noun and explain the author's choice.

Answers, across the five thinking levels.

NOTICE

Congress. Congress names the exact governing body where the document was presented, not just leaders or officials.

CHOOSE

B. Abolitionists. It names exactly who or what, instead of a general word like thing or place.

SHOW

Abolitionists names the specific group of people who fought to end slavery, not just supporters or people.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The leaders wanted to protect the people's liberty.

DEFEND

Property names the specific right of ownership that governments should protect. The plain word things could mean anything and does not carry the same legal meaning.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “To protest, members of the Sons of Liberty disguised themselves and boarded ships in Boston Harbor.” The word Boston Harbor works well. Boston Harbor names the exact place.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

One major turning point came after the French and Indian War, which ended in 1763.

The phrase 'turning point' helps the reader understand that the war

- A** was the last conflict between the colonies and France
- B** made colonists want to move back to Britain
- C** caused a major shift between Britain and the colonies
- D** was quickly forgotten by colonists after it ended

The answer is C.

- A** **was the last conflict between the colonies and France**
Turning point means a big change, not that the war was the final conflict.
- B** **made colonists want to move back to Britain**
Nothing suggests colonists wanted to return. A turning point means a shift in direction.
- C** **caused a major shift between Britain and the colonies**
Correct. A turning point means the moment when things shifted in a new and important direction.
- D** **was quickly forgotten by colonists after it ended**
A turning point is a significant moment, not one that is forgotten.