

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 “A Voice in the Community”

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.

"A town might repair a playground, add a stop sign, or create a new program because community members shared their ideas."

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?

“State governments make decisions about education, transportation, health, and other services.”

A. State B. transportation C. governments

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?

“State governments make decisions about education, transportation, health, and other services.”

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 town needed to fix some 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 recycling bins instead of containers?

“A student may ask for more recycling bins at school.”

Why recycling bins and not containers?

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

playground. Playground names a specific place in the community instead of a vague word like area or location.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Transportation names a specific category of public service instead of a vague word like things or needs.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The town needed to fix some sidewalks.

DEFEND

Recycling bins tells the reader exactly what the student wants at school. The plain word containers could mean any kind of box or holder.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “In an election, citizens choose leaders or decide questions placed on a ballot.” The word ballot works well. Ballot names the specific document used in voting instead of a.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

Some people serve on local boards, help with campaigns, or volunteer for community organizations.

The word 'campaigns' helps the reader understand that some people help with

- A** parties held after all the votes are counted
- B** efforts to win votes for a person or idea
- C** classes that teach students about new laws
- D** trips that people take to visit other towns

The answer is **B**.

- A parties held after all the votes are counted**
A campaign happens before a vote, to win support. It is not a party afterward.
- B efforts to win votes for a person or idea**
Correct. Campaigns are organized efforts to win support, and the excerpt lists them with civic work.
- C classes that teach students about new laws**
The excerpt lists ways to serve the community, not classes about laws.
- D trips that people take to visit other towns**
Nothing in the excerpt says the people travel to other towns.