

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 “**From Protest to Participation: How a Nation Changes**”

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.

"The Stamp Act placed taxes on printed materials. Other taxes followed."

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?

“The first ten amendments became known as the Bill of Rights.”

A. first B. Bill of Rights C. ten

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?

“The first ten amendments became known as the Bill of Rights.”

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 wrote an important thing.

Replace the word thing 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 Constitutional Convention instead of meeting?

“In 1787, delegates met at the Constitutional Convention.”

Why Constitutional Convention and not meeting?

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

Stamp Act. Stamp Act names the exact law instead of a vague phrase like one of the laws or a tax.

CHOOSE

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

SHOW

Bill of Rights names the exact document instead of a general term like the laws or the rules.

OWN

Answers vary. One strong revision: The leaders wrote an important amendment.

DEFEND

Constitutional Convention names the exact 1787 meeting where the Constitution was written. The plain word meeting could mean any gathering.

YOUR TURN

Answers vary. One example: “Some signed petitions.” The word petitions works well. Petitions names the specific type of written request instead of a general word like papers or documents.

READ THIS PASSAGE EXCERPT.

The Declaration stated that people possess rights that government should protect. It identified life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness among those rights.

Why does the author most likely use the word 'pursuit'?

- A** To show that happiness was already guaranteed to everyone
- B** To show that people may work toward happiness
- C** To explain that only wealthy people could be happy in 1776
- D** To describe a specific law that Congress passed in 1776

The answer is **B**.

A

To show that happiness was already guaranteed to everyone

Pursuit means the act of trying to reach something, not that it is already given.

B

To show that people may work toward happiness

Correct. Pursuit means actively chasing or working toward something, not having it handed to you.

C

To explain that only wealthy people could be happy in 1776

The excerpt does not say happiness was limited to wealthy people.

D

To describe a specific law that Congress passed in 1776

Pursuit is a word in the Declaration, not a separate law passed by Congress.