

THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC

Reading & Writing Tools

Interactive experiences for the SmartBoard and student devices

Students play, practice, and prove their thinking.
Teachers see every result on a live dashboard.

Grades 3, 4, and 5 • tbase.teachbig.com

THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC

TBASE

Interactive reading and writing tools for students and teachers, all in one place.

Try ALL the things!

Pricing

How to use

PURPOSE

TBASE brings The Writing Academy reading and writing tools together so students can practice and teachers can see growth.

HOW IT WORKS

Choose a section below. Reading Tools build proof and evidence habits. Writing Tools build a thesis (central idea) with strong evidence and clear explanations.

THE GOAL

Every student finds a strong next step, one thinking level at a time.

Start exploring

Pick a section, then open any tool inside it.

READING

Explore Interactive Reading Tools

Read a passage, answer a question, then prove the answer with the exact sentence that supports it.

Open Reading Tools →

WRITING

Explore Interactive Writing Tools

Build a thesis (central idea), choose the strongest evidence, and explain how it proves the idea.

Open Writing Tools →

TBASE home page with Reading and Writing sections

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THE WRITING ACADEMY®

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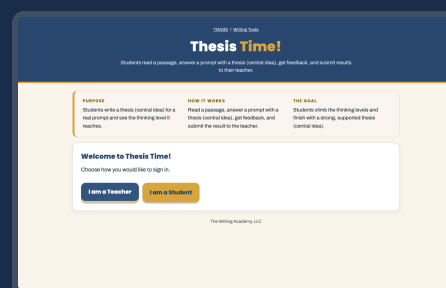
Students play from a class code. Results flow to the teacher dashboard.



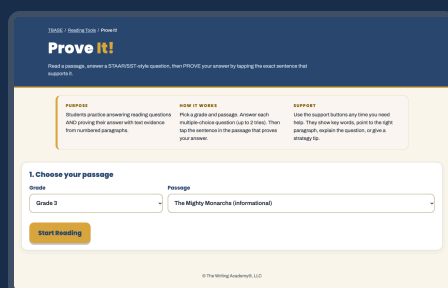
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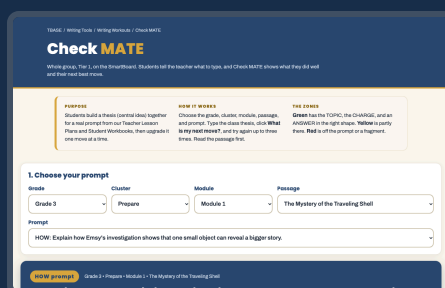
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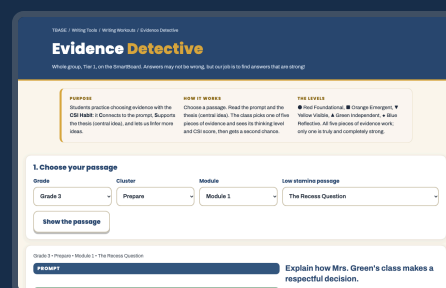
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Practice Answering and Proving

Reading Tools help students answer a question and then prove the answer with evidence from the text. Students open a tool, choose a passage, and play through rounds of practice with built-in support.

How students get started. Students join a class using a class code. Once joined, they pick a reading tool, choose their grade and passage, and begin. Every response is recorded and flows to the teacher dashboard automatically.

Three reading activities are live now. Prove It! builds the habit of proving answers with text evidence. Paraphrase It! teaches the skill behind a strong paraphrase. Figure It Out! helps students spot figurative language, figure out what it means, and explain why the author used it. More reading activities will join this page as they are ready.

[TBASE](#) / [Reading Tools](#)

Interactive Reading Tools

Practice answering reading questions and proving every answer with evidence from the text.

PURPOSE

Reading Tools help students answer a question and then prove the answer with evidence from the text.

HOW IT WORKS

Open a tool, choose a passage, and answer each question. Then tap the sentence in the passage that supports the answer.

THE GOAL

Students build the habit of proving every answer with the text.

Reading Experiences

Choose an activity to begin. More reading activities will join this page as they are ready.

READING

Prove It!

Read a short passage, answer a STAAR/SST style question, then prove the answer by tapping the sentence that supports it. Support buttons are there whenever a student wants them.

Play Prove It! →

READING

Paraphrase It!

Read a short passage, pick the best paraphrase, spot the trap in tricky paraphrases, and write your own. Rounds get harder as students go, and results show which traps to watch.

Play Paraphrase It! →

READING

Figure It Out!

Spot figurative language, figure out what it means, and explain why the author used it. Play on your own or teach the whole class.

Play Figure It Out! →

The Reading Experiences hub page with all three activities

[TBASE](#) / [Reading Tools](#) / [Prove It!](#)

Prove It!

Read a passage, answer a STAAR/SST-style question, then prove your answer by tapping the exact sentence that supports it.

[TBASE](#) / [Reading Tools](#) / [Paraphrase It!](#)

Paraphrase It!

Read a short passage, choose the best paraphrase, spot tricky paraphrases, and write your own.

Prove It!

What students do

Students pick a grade and a passage, then answer a STAAR/SST style multiple choice question with up to two tries. After answering, they tap the exact sentence in the passage that supports their answer.

Built-in support

Support buttons are always available. They show key words, point to the right paragraph, explain the question, or give a strategy tip. Students choose when to use them.

The skill

Answer the question, then prove it with the text. Every answer must be backed by evidence from numbered paragraphs in the passage. This builds the habit students need for STAAR/SST and for strong writing.

What teachers see

The dashboard shows each student's answer, whether it was correct, which sentence they chose as evidence, and whether they used support buttons. Teachers can group students and plan targeted instruction.

Answer the question, then prove it with the text.

TBASE / Reading Tools / Prove It!

Prove It!

Read a passage, answer a STAAR/SST-style question, then PROVE your answer by tapping the exact sentence that supports it.

PURPOSE

Students practice answering reading questions AND proving their answer with text evidence from numbered paragraphs.

HOW IT WORKS

Pick a grade and passage. Answer each multiple-choice question (up to 2 tries). Then tap the sentence in the passage that proves your answer.

SUPPORT

Use the support buttons any time you need help. They show key words, point to the right paragraph, explain the question, or give a strategy tip.

1. Choose your passage

Grade

Grade 3

Passage

The Mighty Monarchs (informational)

Start Reading

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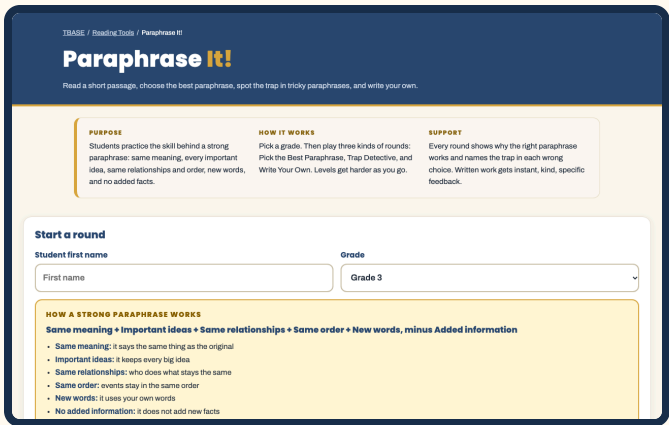
Prove It! start screen with grade and passage selection

Paraphrase It! and Figure It Out!

Paraphrase It!

Three kinds of rounds build the paraphrasing skill. **Pick the Best Paraphrase** asks students to choose the strongest option. **Trap Detective** asks them to spot the specific error in a tricky paraphrase. **Write Your Own** lets students write a paraphrase and get instant, kind, specific feedback.

Rounds get harder as students go. The results show which traps to watch: copied words, missing ideas, added facts, or scrambled relationships.



Paraphrase It! start screen

Figure It Out!

Four rounds walk through figurative language. **Spot It** finds the figurative phrase. **What Does It Mean** picks the correct meaning. **Why Here** explains the author's purpose. **Name the Tool** identifies the type (simile, metaphor, personification, and more).

Students can play independently or as a whole class. Every wrong answer is built from a real reading trap, so students learn what to watch for on the STAAR/SST.

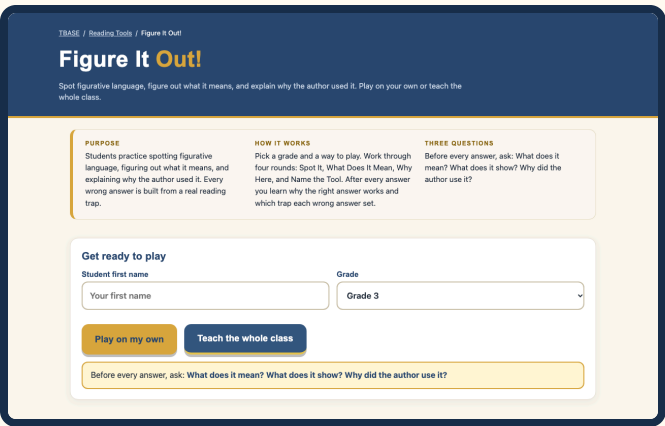


Figure It Out! start screen

All three reading tools use cross-curricular science and social studies passages. If your school uses The Writing Academy writing system, the passages correspond to the modules students are working on.



Paraphrase It! on a student phone

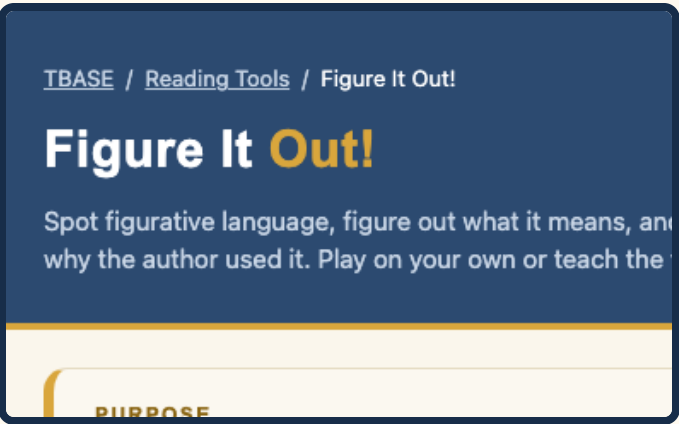


Figure It Out! on a student phone

Build a Thesis (Central Idea), Support It, Explain It

Writing Tools help students build a thesis (central idea), choose evidence, and explain how the evidence proves the idea. Two paths are available.

Writing Workouts (Whole Group)

Four SmartBoard games for Tier 1 explicit teaching. The class talks, the teacher types, and the tool shows the thinking level and the next best move. Each workout builds one part of strong writing using real passages and prompts from the Teacher Lesson Plans and Student Workbooks.

- **Check MATE** builds a thesis (central idea)
- **OnRAMP** teaches main idea and theme
- **Evidence Detective** teaches CSI evidence
- **Explanation Station** teaches DEEP FACTS explanations

Thesis Time! (Independent)

Each student sorts prompts in the WHY or HOW game, then writes a thesis (central idea) and gets a thinking level with a next step. Teachers track growth on the dashboard across the year.

Students climb the five thinking levels from Foundational to Reflective and finish with strong, supported writing.

TBASE / Writing Tools

Interactive Writing Tools

Build a thesis (central idea), support it with strong evidence, and explain how the evidence proves the idea.

PURPOSE

Writing Tools help students build a thesis (central idea), choose evidence, and explain how the evidence proves the idea.

HOW IT WORKS

Open Writing Workouts for whole group practice on the SmartBoard, or open Thesis Time! to write and rate a thesis (central idea) on your own.

THE GOAL

Students climb the thinking levels and finish with strong, supported writing.

Writing Experiences

Choose a tool to begin.

WHOLE GROUP

Writing Workouts

Whole group SmartBoard games: Check MATE, OnRAMP, Evidence Detective, and Explanation Station. Climb the five thinking levels from Foundational to Reflective.

Open Writing Workouts →



Try It Now

INDEPENDENT

Thesis Time!

Sort prompts in the WHY or HOW game, then write a thesis (central idea) and get a thinking level with a next step. Teachers track growth on the dashboard.

Play Thesis Time! →



Try It Now

The Writing Experiences hub page with Writing Workouts and Thesis Time!

Check MATE and OnRAMP

Check MATE

The class chooses a real prompt from the Teacher Lesson Plans and Student Workbooks, then types a thesis (central idea). The tool shows the zone.

- **Green** has the TOPIC, the CHARGE, and an ANSWER in the right shape
- **Yellow** is partly there
- **Red** is off the prompt or a fragment

Students get up to three tries to climb to green. The tool shows what they did well and their next best move each time.

Check MATE with grade, cluster, module, and prompt selection

Check MATE on a student phone

OnRAMP

The class reads a passage and chooses one of five possible main idea or theme statements. None of the answers are wrong. Each one shows a different level of thinking.

- **Red** Foundational
- **Orange** Emergent
- **Yellow** Visible
- **Green** Independent
- **Blue** Reflective

After each choice, students see an OnRAMP question that pushes them one level higher. Then the class writes a global or reflective statement together.

OnRAMP with five thinking levels

OnRAMP on a student phone

Answers may not be wrong, but our job is to find answers that are strong! Both tools use passages and prompts from the Teacher Lesson Plans and Student Workbooks, so practice connects to the writing students are already doing in class.

Evidence Detective and Explanation Station

Evidence Detective

Students read a prompt and a thesis (central idea), then choose one of five pieces of evidence. Each piece gets a **CSI score**.

- **C** = it Connects to the prompt
- **S** = it Supports the thesis (central idea)
- **I** = it lets us Infer more ideas

The strongest evidence earns all three. Students see each score and then get a second chance to find the one piece that truly connects, supports, and lets us infer.

Evidence Detective with CSI evidence scoring

Explanation Station

Students practice explaining evidence with the **DEEP FACTS** explanation types.

Level 1: Choose an explanation and learn which DEEP FACTS type it uses. **Level 2:** The class writes its own explanation, and the tool names the type or asks them to try explaining it again.

Students can tap **Activate support now** for the full DEEP FACTS chart, showing all nine explanation types, what each one means, and an example.

Explanation Station with DEEP FACTS explanation types

Answers may not be wrong, but our job is to find answers that are strong!

Thesis Time!

What students do

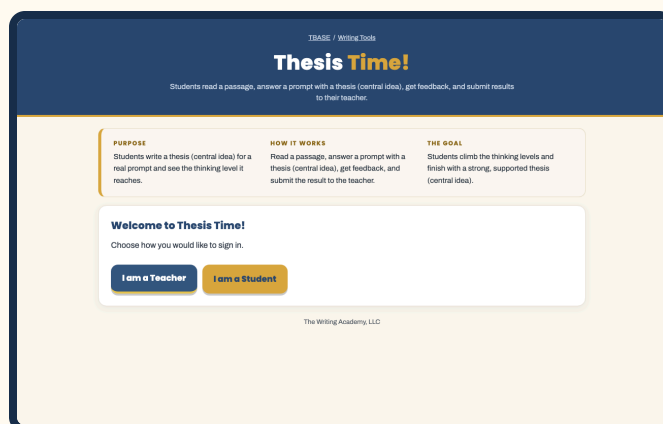
Each student sorts prompts in the WHY or HOW game, then writes a thesis (central idea) and gets a thinking level with a next step. The tool uses Randi Whitney's green WHY/HOW clue words to help students craft a strong statement.

Five thinking levels

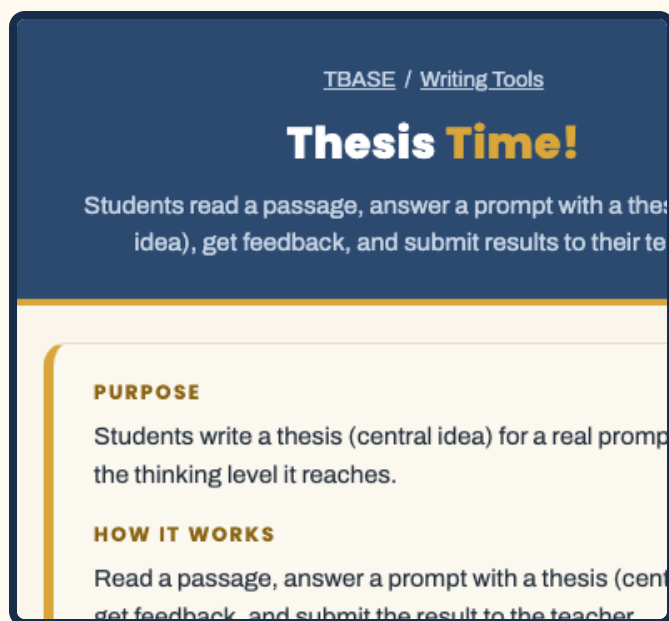
Students climb from Foundational to Reflective. Each response gets a thinking level and a specific next step, so students always know what to try next.

Teacher dashboard

Teachers see every thesis each student writes, the thinking level, and the growth pattern across the year. Students play from a class code, so results flow to the right teacher automatically.



Thesis Time! start screen



Thesis Time! on a student phone

STAAR/SST style practice built in. The prompts and formats mirror what students will see on the state assessment, so the practice is always relevant.

All Reading and Writing Tools

READING EXPERIENCES

ACTIVITY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	GRADES
Prove It!	Answer a question, then prove it with text evidence	3, 4, 5
Paraphrase It!	Pick the best paraphrase, spot the trap, write your own	3, 4, 5
Figure It Out!	Spot figurative language, interpret it, explain it, name it	3, 4, 5

WRITING WORKOUTS (SMARTBOARD)

ACTIVITY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	GRADES
Check MATE	Build a thesis (central idea), get the next best move	3, 4, 5
OnRAMP	Climb five thinking levels for main idea or theme	3, 4, 5
Evidence Detective	Choose evidence with the CSI Habit (Connect, Support, Infer)	3, 4, 5
Explanation Station	Explain evidence with DEEP FACTS explanation types	3, 4, 5

INDEPENDENT WRITING

ACTIVITY	WHAT STUDENTS DO	GRADES
Thesis Time!	Sort prompts (WHY/HOW), write a thesis, get a thinking level	3, 4, 5

8 interactive experiences × 3 grades = 24 tools available now. More reading experiences are on the way.

Students play from a class code. Results flow to the teacher dashboard. STAAR/SST style practice built in. Free trial at tbase.teachbig.com/try/.

TBASE / Reading Tools / Prove It!

Prove It!

Read a passage, answer a STAAR/SST-style question, then prove your answer by tapping the exact sentence that supports your answer.

PURPOSE
Students practice answering reading questions AND proving their answer with text evidence from numbered paragraphs.

HOW IT WORKS
Pick a grade and passage. Answer each multiple-choice question (up to 2 tries). Then tap the sentence in the passage that proves your answer.

Prove It!

TBASE / Writing Tools / Writing Workouts / Check MATE

Check MATE

Whole group, Tier 1, on the SmartBoard. Students tell their what to type, and Check MATE shows what they did well on next best move.

PURPOSE
Students build a thesis (central idea) together for a real prompt from our Teacher Lesson Plans and Student Workbooks, then upgrade it one move at a time.

HOW IT WORKS
Choose the grade, cluster, module, passage, and prompt.

Check MATE

TBASE / Writing Tools / Writing Workouts / Evidence Detective

Evidence Detective

Whole group, Tier 1, on the SmartBoard. Answers may not be perfect, but our job is to find answers that are strong!

PURPOSE
Students practice choosing evidence with the CSI Habit. Connects to the prompt, Supports the thesis (central idea), and lets us Infer more ideas.

HOW IT WORKS
Choose a passage. Read the prompt and the thesis statement. The class picks one of five pieces of evidence to support the thesis.

Evidence Detective

TBASE / Writing Tools

Thesis Time!

Students read a passage, answer a prompt with a thesis (central idea), get feedback, and submit results to their teacher.

PURPOSE
Students write a thesis (central idea) for a real prompt and get the thinking level it reaches.

HOW IT WORKS
Read a passage, answer a prompt with a thesis (central idea), get feedback, and submit the result to the teacher.

THE GOAL
Students write a thesis (central idea) for a real prompt and get the thinking level it reaches.

Thesis Time!

GET STARTED

Try the Reading and Writing Tools for Free

Visit **tbase.teachbig.com/try/** to explore every reading and writing experience. Students play from a class code and teachers see every result.

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