

# Text Complexity: Qualitative Measures Rubric<sup>1</sup>

## LITERATURE

Text Title \_\_\_\_\_

Text Author \_\_\_\_\_

	Exceedingly Complex	Very Complex	Moderately Complex	Slightly Complex
TEXT STRUCTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Organization:</b> Is intricate with regard to such elements as point of view, time shifts, multiple characters, storylines and detail</li> <li><b>Use of Graphics:</b> If used, illustrations or graphics are essential for understanding the meaning of the text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Organization:</b> May include subplots, time shifts and more complex characters</li> <li><b>Use of Graphics:</b> If used, illustrations or graphics support or extend the meaning of the text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Organization:</b> May have two or more storylines and occasionally be difficult to predict</li> <li><b>Use of Graphics:</b> If used, a range of illustrations or graphics support selected parts of the text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Organization:</b> Is clear, chronological or easy to predict</li> <li><b>Use of Graphics:</b> If used, either illustrations directly support and assist in interpreting the text or are not necessary to understanding the meaning of the text</li> </ul>
LANGUAGE FEATURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Conventionality:</b> Dense and complex; contains abstract, ironic, and/or figurative language</li> <li><b>Vocabulary:</b> Complex, generally unfamiliar, archaic, subject-specific, or overly academic language; may be ambiguous or purposefully misleading</li> <li><b>Sentence Structure:</b> Mainly complex sentences with several subordinate clauses or phrases; sentences often contain multiple concepts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Conventionality:</b> Fairly complex; contains some abstract, ironic, and/or figurative language</li> <li><b>Vocabulary:</b> Fairly complex language that is sometimes unfamiliar, archaic, subject-specific, or overly academic</li> <li><b>Sentence Structure:</b> Many complex sentences with several subordinate phrases or clauses and transition words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Conventionality:</b> Largely explicit and easy to understand with some occasions for more complex meaning</li> <li><b>Vocabulary:</b> Mostly contemporary, familiar, conversational; rarely unfamiliar or overly academic</li> <li><b>Sentence Structure:</b> Primarily simple and compound sentences, with some complex constructions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Conventionality:</b> Explicit, literal, straightforward, easy to understand</li> <li><b>Vocabulary:</b> Contemporary, familiar, conversational language</li> <li><b>Sentence Structure:</b> Mainly simple sentences</li> </ul>
MEANING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Meaning:</b> Multiple competing levels of meaning that are difficult to identify, separate, and interpret; theme is implicit or subtle, often ambiguous and revealed over the entirety of the text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Meaning:</b> Multiple levels of meaning that may be difficult to identify or separate; theme is implicit or subtle and may be revealed over the entirety of the text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Meaning:</b> Multiple levels of meaning clearly distinguished from each other; theme is clear but may be conveyed with some subtlety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Meaning:</b> One level of meaning; theme is obvious and revealed early in the text.</li> </ul>
KNOWLEDGE DEMANDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Life Experiences:</b> Explores complex, sophisticated or abstract themes; experiences portrayed are distinctly different from the common reader</li> <li><b>Intertextuality and Cultural Knowledge:</b> Many references or allusions to other texts or cultural elements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Life Experiences:</b> Explores themes of varying levels of complexity or abstraction; experiences portrayed are uncommon to most readers</li> <li><b>Intertextuality and Cultural Knowledge:</b> Some references or allusions to other texts or cultural elements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Life Experiences:</b> Explores several themes; experiences portrayed are common to many readers</li> <li><b>Intertextuality and Cultural Knowledge:</b> Few references or allusions to other texts or cultural elements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Life Experiences:</b> Explores a single theme; experiences portrayed are everyday and common to most readers</li> <li><b>Intertextuality and Cultural Knowledge:</b> No references or allusions to other texts or cultural elements</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Appendix A: Research Supporting Key Elements of the Standards, Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies and Science and Technical Subjects (2010).

## Text Complexity: Qualitative Measures Rubric

### INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

Text Title \_\_\_\_\_

Text Author \_\_\_\_\_

	Exceedingly Complex	Very Complex	Moderately Complex	Slightly Complex
<b>TEXT STRUCTURE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Organization:</b> Connections between an extensive range of ideas, processes or events are deep, intricate and often ambiguous; organization is intricate or discipline-specific</li> <li>○ <b>Text Features:</b> If used, are essential in understanding content</li> <li>○ <b>Use of Graphics:</b> If used, intricate, extensive graphics, tables, charts, etc., are extensive are integral to making meaning of the text; may provide information not otherwise conveyed in the text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Organization:</b> Connections between an expanded range ideas, processes or events are often implicit or subtle; organization may contain multiple pathways or exhibit some discipline-specific traits</li> <li>○ <b>Text Features:</b> If used, directly enhance the reader's understanding of content</li> <li>○ <b>Use of Graphics:</b> If used, graphics, tables, charts, etc. support or are integral to understanding the text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Organization:</b> Connections between some ideas or events are implicit or subtle; organization is evident and generally sequential or chronological</li> <li>○ <b>Text Features:</b> If used, enhance the reader's understanding of content</li> <li>○ <b>Use of Graphics:</b> If used, graphic, pictures, tables, and charts, etc. are mostly supplementary to understanding the text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Organization:</b> Connections between ideas, processes or events are explicit and clear; organization of text is chronological, sequential or easy to predict</li> <li>○ <b>Text Features:</b> If used, help the reader navigate and understand content but are not essential to understanding content.</li> <li>○ <b>Use of Graphics:</b> If used, graphic, pictures, tables, and charts, etc. are simple and unnecessary to understanding the text but they may support and assist readers in understanding the written text</li> </ul>
<b>LANGUAGE FEATURES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Conventionality:</b> Dense and complex; contains considerable abstract, ironic, and/or figurative language</li> <li>○ <b>Vocabulary:</b> Complex, generally unfamiliar, archaic, subject-specific, or overly academic language; may be ambiguous or purposefully misleading</li> <li>○ <b>Sentence Structure:</b> Mainly complex sentences with several subordinate clauses or phrases and transition words; sentences often contains multiple concepts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Conventionality:</b> Fairly complex; contains some abstract, ironic, and/or figurative language</li> <li>○ <b>Vocabulary:</b> Fairly complex language that is sometimes unfamiliar, archaic, subject-specific, or overly academic</li> <li>○ <b>Sentence Structure:</b> Many complex sentences with several subordinate phrases or clauses and transition words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Conventionality:</b> Largely explicit and easy to understand with some occasions for more complex meaning</li> <li>○ <b>Vocabulary:</b> Mostly contemporary, familiar, conversational; rarely overly academic</li> <li>○ <b>Sentence Structure:</b> Primarily simple and compound sentences, with some complex constructions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Conventionality:</b> Explicit, literal, straightforward, easy to understand</li> <li>○ <b>Vocabulary:</b> Contemporary, familiar, conversational language</li> <li>○ <b>Sentence Structure:</b> Mainly simple sentences</li> </ul>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Purpose:</b> Subtle and intricate, difficult to determine; includes many theoretical or abstract elements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Purpose:</b> Implicit or subtle but fairly easy to infer; more theoretical or abstract than concrete</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Purpose:</b> Implied but easy to identify based upon context or source</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Purpose:</b> Explicitly stated, clear, concrete, narrowly focused</li> </ul>
<b>KNOWLEDGE DEMANDS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Subject Matter Knowledge:</b> Relies on extensive levels of discipline-specific or theoretical knowledge; includes a range of challenging abstract concepts</li> <li>○ <b>Intertextuality:</b> Many references or allusions to other texts or outside ideas, theories, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Subject Matter Knowledge:</b> Relies on moderate levels of discipline-specific or theoretical knowledge; includes a mix of recognizable ideas and challenging abstract concepts</li> <li>○ <b>Intertextuality:</b> Some references or allusions to other texts or outside ideas, theories, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Subject Matter Knowledge:</b> Relies on common practical knowledge and some discipline-specific content knowledge; includes a mix of simple and more complicated, abstract ideas</li> <li>○ <b>Intertextuality:</b> Few references or allusions to other texts or outside ideas, theories, etc</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Subject Matter Knowledge:</b> Relies on everyday, practical knowledge; includes simple, concrete ideas</li> <li>○ <b>Intertextuality:</b> No references or allusions to other texts, or outside ideas, theories, etc.</li> </ul>