

Text Complexity: Qualitative Measures Rubric

Informational Texts

	Exceedingly Complex	Very Complex	Moderately Complex	Slightly Complex
TEXT STRUCTURE	 Organization: Connections between an extensive range of ideas, processes or events are deep, intricate and often ambiguous; organization is intricate or discipline-specific 	Organization: Connections between an expanded range ideas, processes or events are often implicit or subtle; organization may contain multiple pathways or exhibit some discipline-	 Organization: Connections between some ideas or events are implicit or subtle; organization is evident and generally sequential or chronological 	 Organization: Connections between ideas processes or events are explicit and clear; organization of text is chronological, sequential or easy to predict
	Text Features: If used, are essential in understanding content	 Specific traits Text Features: If used, directly enhance the reader's understanding of content 	O Text Features: If used, enhance the reader's understanding of content	 Text Features: If used, help the reader navigate and understand content but are not essential to understanding content.
	O Use of Graphics: 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	 Use of Graphics: If used, graphics, tables, charts, etc. support or are integral to understanding the text 	O Use of Graphics: If used, graphic, pictures, tables, and charts, etc. are mostly supplementary to understanding the text	O Use of Graphics: 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
LANGUAGE FEATURES	Conventionality: Dense and complex; contains considerable abstract, ironic, and/or figurative language	O Conventionality: Fairly complex; contains some abstract, ironic, and/or figurative language	Conventionality: Largely explicit and easy to understand with some occasions for more complex meaning	Conventionality: Explicit, literal, straightforward, easy to understand
	 Vocabulary: Complex, generally unfamiliar, archaic, subject-specific, or overly academic language; may be ambiguous or purposefully misleading 	 Vocabulary: Fairly complex language that is sometimes unfamiliar, archaic, subject-specific, or overly academic 	 Vocabulary: Mostly contemporary, familiar, conversational; rarely overly academic 	O Vocabulary: Contemporary, familiar, conversational language
	 Sentence Structure: Mainly complex sentences with several subordinate clauses or phrases and transition words; sentences often contains multiple concepts 	 Sentence Structure: Many complex sentences with several subordinate phrases or clauses and transition words 	 Sentence Structure: Primarily simple and compound sentences, with some complex constructions 	 Sentence Structure: Mainly simple sentences
PURPOSE	O Purpose: Subtle and intricate, difficult to determine; includes many theoretical or abstract elements	O Purpose: Implicit or subtle but fairly easy to infer; more theoretical or abstract than concrete	O Purpose: Implied but easy to identify based upon context or source	O Purpose: Explicitly stated, clear, concrete narrowly focused
KNOWLEDGE DEMANDS	 Subject Matter Knowledge: Relies on extensive levels of discipline-specific or theoretical knowledge; includes a range of challenging abstract concepts 	 Subject Matter Knowledge: Relies on moderate levels of discipline-specific or theoretical knowledge; includes a mix of recognizable ideas and challenging abstract concepts 	 Subject Matter Knowledge: Relies on common practical knowledge and some discipline-specific content knowledge; includes a mix of simple and more complicated, abstract ideas 	 Subject Matter Knowledge: Relies on everyday, practical knowledge; includes simple, concrete ideas
	 Intertextuality: Many references or allusions to other texts or outside ideas, theories, etc. 	 Intertextuality: Some references or allusions to other texts or outside ideas, theories, etc. 	O Intertextuality: Few references or allusions to other texts or outside ideas, theories, etc.	O Intertextuality: No references or allusions to other texts, or outside ideas, theories, etc.