



DRAFT

# TEXT COMPLEXITY: QUALITATIVE MEASURES RUBRIC INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

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## LEVELS OF PURPOSE

### High

- Purpose:** subtle, implied, difficult to determine

### Middle High

- Purpose:** implied, but fairly easy to infer

### Middle Low

- Purpose:** implied, but easy to identify based upon context or source

### Low

- Purpose:** explicitly stated

## STRUCTURE

### High

- Organization of Main Ideas and Details:** highly complex; not explicit, must be inferred by the reader
- Text Features:** if used, are essential in understanding content
- Use of Graphics:** sophisticated graphics, essential to understanding the text, may also provide information not otherwise conveyed in the text

### Middle High

- Organization of Main Ideas and Details:** complex but largely explicit; may exhibit traits common to a specific subject or discipline
- Text Features:** if used, greatly enhance the reader's understanding of content
- Use of Graphics:** some sophisticated graphics, may occasionally be essential to understanding the text

### Middle Low

- Organization of Main Ideas and Details:** may be complex, but clearly stated and generally sequential
- Text Features:** if used, enhance the reader's understanding of content
- Use of Graphics:** largely simple graphics, supplementary to understanding of the text

### Low

- Organization of Main Ideas and Details:** clearly stated and sequential
- Text Features:** if used, help the reader navigate and understand content but are not essential
- Use of Graphics:** use of simple graphics, unnecessary to understand the text

## LANGUAGE CONVENTIONALITY AND CLARITY

### High

- Meaning:** dense and complex; may be abstract, ironic, and/or figurative; language may be purposefully ambiguous or misleading
- Register:** generally unfamiliar, archaic, subject-specific, or overly academic

### Middle High

- Meaning:** somewhat complex; may occasionally be abstract, ironic, and/or figurative
- Register:** occasionally unfamiliar, archaic, subject-specific, or overly academic

### Middle Low

- Meaning:** largely explicit and easy to understand with few occasions of more complex meaning
- Register:** largely contemporary, familiar, conversational; rarely unfamiliar, archaic, subject-specific, or overly academic

### Low

- Meaning:** explicit, literal, straightforward, easy to understand
- Register:** contemporary, familiar, conversational

## KNOWLEDGE DEMANDS

### High

- Subject Matter Knowledge:** requires extensive, perhaps specialized or even theoretical subject-specific knowledge
- Intertextuality:** many references/allusions to other texts

### Middle High

- Subject Matter Knowledge:** requires moderate levels of subject-specific knowledge; some theoretical knowledge may enhance understanding
- Intertextuality:** some references/allusions to other texts

### Middle Low

- Subject Matter Knowledge:** largely everyday, practical knowledge is necessary; requires some subject-specific knowledge
- Intertextuality:** few references/allusions to other texts

### Low

- Subject Matter Knowledge:** requires only everyday, practical knowledge
- Intertextuality:** no references/allusions to other texts