



GRADIENTS IN COMPLEXITY:

Text Complexity Rubric for **Informational** Texts



Informational Text Analyzed (author, date): _____

Overall Complexity Rating: _____

Notes: _____

	Simple Text [1]	Somewhat Complex Text [2]	Complex Text [3]	Very Complex Text [4]
Format Layout	<input type="checkbox"/> Consistent placement of text, regular word and line spacing, often large plain font <input type="checkbox"/> Graphics, captioned photos, labeled diagrams that directly support and help interpret the written text <input type="checkbox"/> Simple indexes, short glossaries <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive signposting and/or enhancements	<input type="checkbox"/> May have longer passages of uninterrupted text, often plain font <input type="checkbox"/> Graphs, photos, tables, charts, diagrams directly support the text <input type="checkbox"/> Indexes, glossaries, occasional quotes, references <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced signposting and enhancements	<input type="checkbox"/> Longer passages, uninterrupted text may include columns or other variations in layout, often smaller, more elaborate font <input type="checkbox"/> Essential integrated graphics, tables, charts, formulas (necessary to make meaning of text) <input type="checkbox"/> Embedded quotes, concluding appendices, indexes, glossaries, bibliography <input type="checkbox"/> Minimal signposting and/or enhancements	<input type="checkbox"/> Very long passages, uninterrupted text that may include columns or other variations in layout, often small, densely packed print <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive or complex, intricate, essential integrated tables, charts, formulas necessary to make connections or synthesize concepts presented <input type="checkbox"/> Abstracts, footnotes, citations and/or detailed indexes, appendices, bibliography <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated signposting conforming to disciplinary formats; no enhancements
Purpose and Meaning	<input type="checkbox"/> A single or simple purpose conveying clear or factual information <input type="checkbox"/> Meaning is clear, concrete with a narrow focus	<input type="checkbox"/> Purpose involves conveying a range of ideas with more detailed information or examples <input type="checkbox"/> Meaning is more involved with a broader focus	<input type="checkbox"/> Purpose includes explaining or interpreting information, not just presenting it <input type="checkbox"/> Meaning includes more complex concepts and a higher level of detail	<input type="checkbox"/> Purpose may include examining or evaluating complex, sometimes theoretical and contested information <input type="checkbox"/> Meaning is intricate, with abstract theoretical elements
Structure & Discourse	<input type="checkbox"/> Discourse style and organization of the text is clear or chronological and/or easy to predict <input type="checkbox"/> Connections between ideas, processes, or events are explicit and clear <input type="checkbox"/> One primary text structure is evident (e.g., sequence, description)	<input type="checkbox"/> Organization of the text may include a thesis or reasoned explanation in addition to facts <input type="checkbox"/> Connections between some ideas, processes, or events are implicit or subtle <input type="checkbox"/> Includes a main text structure with 1-2 embedded structures	<input type="checkbox"/> Organization of the text may contain multiple pathways, more than one thesis and/or several genres <input type="checkbox"/> Connections between an expanded range of ideas, processes, or events are deeper and often implicit or subtle <input type="checkbox"/> Includes different text structure types of varying complexity	<input type="checkbox"/> Organization of the text is intricate or specialized for a particular discipline or genre <input type="checkbox"/> Connections between an extensive range of ideas, processes, or events are deep, intricate, and often implicit or subtle <input type="checkbox"/> Includes sustained complex text structure types and/or specialized, hybrid text types, including digital texts
Language Features	<input type="checkbox"/> Mainly simple sentences <input type="checkbox"/> Simple language style, sometimes with narrative elements <input type="checkbox"/> Vocabulary is mostly familiar or defined in text	<input type="checkbox"/> Simple and compound sentences with some more complex constructions <input type="checkbox"/> Increased objective style and passive constructions with higher factual content <input type="checkbox"/> Includes some unfamiliar, context-dependent or multiple meaning words	<input type="checkbox"/> Many complex sentences with increased subordinate phrases and clauses or transition words <input type="checkbox"/> Objective/passive style with higher conceptual content and increasing nominalization <input type="checkbox"/> Includes much academic (nuanced) vocabulary and/or some domain-specific (content) vocabulary	<input type="checkbox"/> Mainly complex sentences, often containing multiple concepts <input type="checkbox"/> Specialized disciplinary style with dense conceptual content and high nominalization <input type="checkbox"/> Includes extensive academic (nuanced, precise) and/or domain-specific (content) vocabulary
Bk Knowledge Demands	<input type="checkbox"/> General topic is familiar, with some details known by reader <input type="checkbox"/> Simple, concrete ideas	<input type="checkbox"/> General topic is familiar, with some details new to reader (cultural, historical, literary, political, legal, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Both simple and more complicated, abstract ideas	<input type="checkbox"/> General topic is somewhat familiar but with many details unknown to reader (cultural, historical, literary, political, legal, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> A range of recognizable ideas and challenging abstract concepts	<input type="checkbox"/> General topic is mostly unfamiliar with most details unknown to reader (cultural, historical, literary, political, legal, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Many new ideas, perspectives, and/or complex, challenging, abstract, and theoretical concepts

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