

Qualitative Dimensions of Text Complexity: Science and Technical Subjects Grades 6-12

	Complex Text	Mostly Complex Text	Mostly Simple Text	Simple Text
Purpose	<p>Purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is subtle, implied and difficult to determine may present multiple purposes revealed over the entirety of the text 	<p>Purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is implied, but easy to infer is revealed over the entirety of the text 	<p>Purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is explicitly stated tends to be revealed later in the text 	<p>Purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is simple and explicitly stated usually revealed at the beginning of the text or in the title
Text Structure	<p>Text Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is subtle or absent if used, is essential in understanding the content 	<p>Text Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is implicit or difficult to determine use of signal words is minimal if used, intended to enhance the understanding of the text 	<p>Text Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> includes a range of explicit structures contains signal words supports the reader's understanding of the text 	<p>Text Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is explicit and simple contains signal words helps the reader navigate and understand content
	<p>Text Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are sophisticated, essential and integrated with the text provide information not provided elsewhere 	<p>Text Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are integrated with the text are necessary to make meaning of the text 	<p>Text Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> enhance and supplement the reader's understanding of the text 	<p>Text Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are unnecessary or merely supplemental to understanding the text
Knowledge Demands	<p>Knowledge Demands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contain unfamiliar concepts require specialized and extensive scientific or technical knowledge include abstract scientific or technical (discipline-specific) concepts 	<p>Knowledge Demands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> include a range of challenging familiar and unfamiliar discipline-specific concepts 	<p>Knowledge Demands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> include familiar discipline-specific concepts 	<p>Knowledge Demands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> present familiar concrete concepts are related to students' experiences
	<p>Inter-textuality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contains multiple references or citations to a variety of texts or ideas and theories 	<p>Inter-textuality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contains multiple references or citations to a variety of texts on the same idea or theory 	<p>Inter-textuality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contains a reference to another text on the same idea or theory 	<p>Inter-textuality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contains no references or citations to other text, ideas or theories
Language	<p>Sentence Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is dense containing mainly complex, compound sentences of varied structure contains complex sentences with multiple concepts embedded in phrases 	<p>Sentence Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contains a range of complex compound and simple sentences may contain more than one concept embedded in a sentence 	<p>Sentence Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contains simple and compound sentences 	<p>Sentence Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contains mainly simple sentences
	<p>Vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> includes sophisticated, complex academic and/or discipline-specific vocabulary crucial to understanding the text is not specifically defined within the text, and assumes prior knowledge 	<p>Vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> includes unfamiliar discipline-specific or academic words may be defined contextually at the paragraph or passage level 	<p>Vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> includes a range of familiar and unfamiliar discipline-specific or academic words is defined contextually or in a footnote 	<p>Vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> includes familiar discipline specific or academic words is usually defined within the same sentence