**APPENDIX I- TEXT COMPLEXITY- 6-12 Gradients in Complexity: Informational Texts**

















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|  | **Simple Texts** | **Somewhat Complex Texts** | **Complex Texts** | **Very Complex Texts** |
| **Layout** | Consistent placement of text, regular word and line spacing, often large plain fontGraphics and pictures that directly support and help interpret the written textSimple indexes, glossariesSupportive signposting and enhancements | May have longer passages of uninterrupted text, often plain fontGraphs, pictures, tables, charts that directly support the textIndexes, glossaries, occasional quotes, referencesReduced signposting and enhancements | Longer passages of uninterrupted text may include columns or other variations in layout, often smaller more elaborate fontEssential integrated graphics, tables, charts, formula (necessary to make meaning of text)Quotes, concluding appendices, indexes, glossaries, bibliographyMinimal signposting and/or enhancements | Very long passages of uninterrupted text that may include columns or other variations in layout, often small densely packed printExtensive, intricate, essential integrated tables, charts, formulas necessary to make meaning of textAbstracts, footnotes, citations and detailed indexes, appendices, bibliographyIntegrated signposting conforming to disciplinary formats. No enhancements |
| **Purpose and****Meaning** | A single or simple purpose conveying clear or factual informationMeaning is clear, concrete with a narrow focus | Purpose involves conveying a range of more detailed informationMeaning is more involved with a broader focus | Purpose includes explaining or interpreting informationMeaning includes more complex concepts and a higher level of detail | Purpose may include examining/evaluating complex, sometimes theoretical and contested informationMeaning is intricate, with abstract theoretical elements |
| **Structure** | The organization of the text is clear or chronological and/or easy to predictConnections among events or ideas are explicit and clear.One mode of communication is evident | The organization of the text may include a thesis or reasoned explanation in addition to factsConnections among events or ideas are sometimes implicit or subtle.May include different modes of communication | The organization of the text may contain multiple pathways, more than one thesis and/or several genresConnections among events or ideas are often implicit or subtleIncludes smaller sections that utilize different modes of communication of varying complexity | The organization of the text is intricate or specialized for a particular disciplineConnections among events or ideas are implicit or subtle throughout the text.Includes sustained sections that utilize different modes of communication and/or hybrid or non-linear texts |
| **Language Features** | Mainly simple sentencesSimple language style, sometimes with narrative elementsVocabulary is mostly familiar | Simple and compound sentences with some more complex constructionsIncreased objective style and passive constructions with higher factual contentVocabulary includes some unfamiliar, context- dependent words | Many complex sentences with increased subordinate phrases and clauses or transition wordsObjective/passive style with higher conceptual content and increasing nominalizationIncludes much academic vocabulary and some domain specific (content) vocabulary | Mainly complex sentences, often containing multiple conceptsSpecialized disciplinary style with dense conceptual content and high nominalizationIncludes extensive academic and domain specific(content) vocabulary |
| **Knowledge****Informational** | General topic is familiar, with details known by readerSimple, concrete ideas | General topic is familiar, with some details new to readerBoth simple and more complicated, abstract ideas | General topic is somewhat familiar but with many details unknown to readerA range of recognizable ideas and challenging abstract concepts | General topic is mostly unfamiliar with most details unknown to readerMany new ideas and/or complex, challenging, abstract and theoretical concepts |

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