**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 font  Graphics and pictures that directly support and help interpret the written text  Simple indexes, glossaries  Supportive signposting and enhancements | May have longer passages of uninterrupted text, often plain font  Graphs, pictures, tables, charts that directly support the text  Indexes, glossaries, occasional quotes, references  Reduced signposting and enhancements | Longer passages of uninterrupted text may include columns or other variations in layout, often smaller more elaborate font  Essential integrated graphics, tables, charts, formula (necessary to make meaning of text)  Quotes, concluding appendices, indexes, glossaries, bibliography  Minimal signposting and/or enhancements | Very long passages of uninterrupted text that may include columns or other variations in layout, often small densely packed print  Extensive, intricate, essential integrated tables, charts, formulas necessary to make meaning of text  Abstracts, footnotes, citations and detailed indexes, appendices, bibliography  Integrated signposting conforming to disciplinary formats. No enhancements |
| **Purpose and**  **Meaning** | A single or simple purpose conveying clear or factual information  Meaning is clear, concrete with a narrow focus | Purpose involves conveying a range of more detailed information  Meaning is more involved with a broader focus | Purpose includes explaining or interpreting information  Meaning includes more complex concepts and a higher level of detail | Purpose may include examining/evaluating complex, sometimes theoretical and contested information  Meaning is intricate, with abstract theoretical elements |
| **Structure** | The organization of the text is clear or chronological and/or easy to predict  Connections 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 facts  Connections 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 genres  Connections among events or ideas are often implicit or subtle  Includes smaller sections that utilize different modes of communication of varying complexity | The organization of the text is intricate or specialized for a particular discipline  Connections 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 sentences  Simple language style, sometimes with narrative elements  Vocabulary is mostly familiar | Simple and compound sentences with some more complex constructions  Increased objective style and passive constructions with higher factual content  Vocabulary includes some unfamiliar, context- dependent words | Many complex sentences with increased subordinate phrases and clauses or transition words  Objective/passive style with higher conceptual content and increasing nominalization  Includes much academic vocabulary and some domain specific (content) vocabulary | Mainly complex sentences, often containing multiple concepts  Specialized disciplinary style with dense conceptual content and high nominalization  Includes extensive academic and domain specific  (content) vocabulary |
| **Knowledge**  **Informational** | General topic is familiar, with details known by reader  Simple, concrete ideas | General topic is familiar, with some details new to reader  Both simple and more complicated, abstract ideas | General topic is somewhat familiar but with many details unknown to reader  A range of recognizable ideas and challenging abstract concepts | General topic is mostly unfamiliar with most details unknown to reader  Many new ideas and/or complex, challenging, abstract and theoretical concepts |

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