

# Text Complexity: Qualitative Measures Rubric for Informational Text

Text Title: Coastal Blue Carbon Text Author: Troy Kitch

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QUALITATIVE				
PURPOSE	☐ Purpose: Subtle, implied, difficult to determine; intricate, theoretical elements	☐ Purpose: Implied, but fairly easy to infer; more theoretical than concrete	☑ <b>Purpose:</b> Implied, but easy to identify based upon context or source	☐ Purpose: Explicitly stated; clear, concrete with a narrow focus
TEXT STRUCTURE	☐ Organization of Main Ideas: Connections between an extensive range of ideas or events are deep, intricate and often implicit or subtle; organization of the text is intricate or specialized for a particular discipline ☐ Text Features: If used, are essential in understanding content ☐ Use of Graphics: If used, extensive, intricate, essential integrated graphics, tables, charts, etc., necessary to make meaning of text; also may provide information not otherwise conveyed in the text	□ Organization of Main Ideas: Connections between an expanded range of ideas, processes or events are deeper and often implicit or subtle; organization may contain multiple pathways and may exhibit traits common to a specific discipline □ Text Features: If used, greatly enhance the reader's understanding of content □ Use of Graphics: If used, essential integrated graphics, tables, charts, etc.; may occasionally be essential to understanding the text	☑ Organization of Main Ideas: Connections between some ideas or events are implicit or subtle; organization is evident and generally sequential ☑ Text Features: If used, enhance the reader's understanding of content ☐ Use of Graphics: If used, graphics mostly supplementary to understanding of the text, such as indexes, glossaries; graphs, pictures, tables, and charts directly support the text	☐ Organization of Main Ideas: Connections between ideas, processes or events are explicit and clear; organization of text is clear or chronological or easy to predict ☐ Text Features: If used, help the reader navigate and understand content but are not essential ☑ Use of Graphics: If used, simple graphics, unnecessary to understanding the text but directly support and assist in interpreting the written text
LANGUAGE FEATURES	☐ Conventionality: Dense and complex; contains abstract, ironic, and/or figurative language ☐ Vocabulary: Generally unfamiliar, archaic, subject-specific, or overly academic language; may be ambiguous or purposefully misleading ☐ Sentence Structure: Mainly complex sentences often containing multiple concepts	<ul> <li>☑ Conventionality: Complex; contains some abstract, ironic, and/or figurative language</li> <li>☑ Vocabulary: Somewhat complex language that is sometimes unfamiliar, archaic, subject-specific, or overly academic</li> <li>☑ Sentence Structure: Many complex sentences with several subordinate phrases or clauses and transition words</li> </ul>	☐ Conventionality: Largely explicit and easy to understand with some occasions for more complex meaning ☐ Vocabulary: Mostly contemporary, familiar, conversational; rarely unfamiliar or overly academic ☐ Sentence Structure: Simple and compound sentences, with some more complex constructions	☐ Conventionality: Explicit, literal, straightforward, easy to understand ☐ Vocabulary: Contemporary, familiar, conversational language ☐ Sentence Structure: Mainly simple sentences
KNOWLEDGE DEMANDS	□ Subject Matter Knowledge: Extensive, perhaps specialized or even theoretical discipline-specific content knowledge; range of challenging abstract and theoretical concepts □ Intertextuality: Many references or allusions to other texts or outside ideas, theories, etc.	Subject Matter Knowledge: Moderate levels of discipline-specific content knowledge; some theoretical knowledge may enhance understanding; range of recognizable ideas and challenging abstract concepts  ☐ Intertextuality: Some references or allusions to other texts or outside ideas, theories, etc.	□ Subject Matter Knowledge: Everyday practical knowledge and some discipline-specific content knowledge; both simple and more complicated, abstract ideas □ Intertextuality: A few references or allusions to other texts or outside ideas, theories, etc.	□ Subject Matter Knowledge: Everyday, practical knowledge; simple, concrete ideas □ Intertextuality: No references or allusions to other texts, or outside ideas, theories, etc.



# Questions to Consider in Planning for Instructional Scaffolding of Informational

## **Text**

#### **Purpose:**

- Would spending time helping students to establish a purpose for reading this text be appropriate?
- Will students know in advance what they are expected to do with the information they gain from reading this text?

#### **Text Structure:**

- Would graphic organizers or other aids be appropriate in making the structure of the text visible to students?
- Would a partial outline or some other text-based aid be appropriate in deciphering the structure of the text?
- Would previewing and discussing the graphics included with the text prior to reading be appropriate?

#### Language Features:

- Would a review of figurative, abstract, or ironic language and a modeling of how that type of language might be interpreted be appropriate?
- Would glossing certain vocabulary (particularly multiple meaning words that extend across other subject matter content areas, i.e. Tier 2 words) prior to reading be appropriate?

#### **Knowledge Demands:**

- What background knowledge needs to be introduced (or re-introduced) to facilitate reading success that will not supplant the actual information gained from the reading experience?
- What explicit references and/or allusions to other texts might require additional resources/opportunities for students to explore?

### **General:**

• In what ways might collaborative groupings of students during the reading process be appropriate?