

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Elizabeth Kowal	Event/Date:	TeachFest Connecticut: Summer Academy
Text and Author	“The Bill of Rights: A Transcription” Congress of the United States, March 4, 1789	Where to Access Text	National Archives and Record Administration (www.archives.gov)
Text Description			
The text includes the Preamble to the Bill of Rights and a transcription of the first 10 Amendments to the United States Constitution.			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	10 th Grade	Text Length	726 words
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
For the citizens to have faith in the new government, further protections and restrictions must be added to the Constitution. The document provides some protections, or rights, for the people, but places many more limits on the power of the newly formed government.		Logically organized: Preamble, then Amendments numbered 1-10. No graphics. Headings (Amendment numbers) distinguish between some ideas.	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
Students must have prior knowledge of grievances harbored by American colonists against British government. An analysis of the Declaration of Independence provides a strong foundation for students.		Vocabulary and phrasing from 1789	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
Vocabulary, syntax, and inferences of the text might prove daunting for 10 th graders.			
Big Takeaway			
Many Americans believe the Bill of Rights provides rights for the people. That assumption is partially correct. Analysis of the document provides the reader an understanding of the dual purpose of the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights seeks to limit the powers of government, not necessarily empower the people.			

Vocabulary Analysis Template

	Words that demand less teaching time (i.e. the definition is singular and concrete)	Words that demand more teaching time (i.e. words with multiple meanings and/or that are part of a word family)
Words that can be determined in context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misconstruction • Concurring • Infringed • Affirmation • Jeopardy • Ascertained • Common law • Due process of law • Amendment • Redress of grievances • Pursuant • Transcription 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quartered • delegated • resolved
Words that cannot be determined in context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficent • Ratified • Abridging • Capital crime • Indictment • Compulsory process • Enumeration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaratory and restrictive clauses