

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Lynn S. MacLennan	Event/Date:	TeachFest Connecticut Summer Academy
Text and Author	<i>Monticello: Thomas Jefferson's Masterpiece</i>	Where to Access Text	ReadWorks.org
Text Description			
This is an informational text from ReadWorks.org that connects the political values of Thomas Jefferson to his architecture, most specifically his home in Virginia, Monticello.			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	840L - 5 th Grade	Text Length	2 pages
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
The central idea in this text is that Thomas Jefferson's political values are reflected in his architecture. The article mainly focuses on his home, Monticello, which he designed and built.		The text is logically structured. It begins with a general view of what an architect does and moves on to Thomas Jefferson and his values and work, both as an architect and a political figure. There are graphics to help support the text, although the picture of Monticello is shown at an angle that is not the most advantageous.	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
Students need to have knowledge of the American colonies struggle for independence. They also should have some knowledge about the Declaration of Independence and its underlying ideas.		There are many words that will need either some discussion or direct instruction. A few vocabulary words are defined in the text. The sentence structure is a mixture of simple and complex construction.	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
Students will be unfamiliar with the idea of Roman Neoclassicism, which draws from the classical art and architecture of ancient Rome. A class period will have to be spent exploring ancient Roman architecture. It will also be difficult for students to find the connections between Thomas Jefferson's political values and his architecture. It will be important to scaffold their understanding with specific questions.			
Big Takeaway			
Students will be able to explain the relationship between Thomas Jefferson's political values (All men are created equal, entitled to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness, all men having a say in the creation of laws) and his work as an architect, Monticello, in particular.			

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"> • architect (Tier 3) • landscape (Tier 2) • architecture (Tier 3) • plantation (Tier 3) • irrigation system (Tier 3) • structured (Tier 2) • represent (Tier 2) • dome (Tier 3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reflect (Tier 2) • insights (Tier 2) • values (Tier 2) • ideals (Tier 2)
Words that cannot be determined in context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider (Tier 2) • cultured (Tier 2) • savage (Tier 2) • inspiration (Tier 2) • monarchy (Tier 2) • symbolizes (Tier 2) • fervently (Tier 2) • hallmarks (Tier 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambassador to France (Tier 3) • Roman Neoclassicism (Tier 3) • checks and balances (Tier 3) • republican (Tier 3)