

Text Complexity Analysis

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Debra Cassidy	Event/Date:	TeachFest 2014
Text and Author	“The Tour de France, again, has no women cyclists by Joann Weiner	Where to Access Text	http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/she-the-people/wp/2014/07/24/the-tour-de-france-again-has-no-women-cyclists/
Text Description			
<p>The text is an opinion piece that suggests that women can and should participate fully in the iconic Tour de France with certain accommodations. It provides significant historical and cultural information about the race and compares it to the Boston Marathon in terms of women’s participation and accommodations, and suggests that these same accommodations would enable women to ride in the Tour de France.</p>			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	1390L; 11.8	Text Length	864 words
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
<p>Women currently have a minimal, non-professional role in the Tour de France, but are physically able to participate fully with accommodations. There are historical precedents in sport to support this.</p>		<p>One photo which does not contribute to the article’s meaning; no headings, subtitles, or captions. The author sets forth facts about the Tour de France for the 1st 7 paragraphs before declaring in the 8th her opinion that women should be allowed to participate fully; she makes comparisons between the Tour and the Boston Marathon; she suggests possible ways to enable women to participate in the race. One suggestion does not support her argument. Connections are explicit.</p>	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
<p>Some familiarity with the Tour de France event would be helpful but it is explained in some detail in the article.</p>		<p>Mostly everyday vocabulary; A few references to France and other bike races; language is contemporary and literal; some French names which do not affect comprehension.</p>	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
<p>Differentiating between a factual article and opinion; length of article; distraction of suggestions of possible jersey and helmet colors, which do not support argument.</p>			
Big Takeaway			
<p>In the article, author Joann Weiner asserts that women can and should participate in the grueling Tour de France cycling race. She cites evidence specific to the Tour, such as prior participation by women in stages and races that are solely female. She compares the Tour de France to the Boston Marathon, provides the history of women’s participation in that event, and suggests that some accommodations, such as staggering start times, could be used in the Tour as well. She expresses the hope that these changes could be made in time for the 2015 Tour de France. Students will decide whether they agree or disagree with her assertion and can also decide how sports exclude groups from participation and if this is acceptable, and how this could be changed.</p>			

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	<p>Parisians Fall short Prestigious Irrational Grueling Inadvertently protocols</p>	<p>Commanding Stages Premier Recounts Staggering Enlightened</p>
Words that cannot be determined in context	<p>La Course Arc de Triomphe Fleche Wallonne Boucle Entier</p> <p style="text-align: center;">} French terms</p> <p>Qatar</p>	