

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Alecia Walkuski	Event/Date:	TeachFest CT Summer Academy / 29 July 2014
Text and Author	" <i>Can You Sue A Robot For Defamation?</i> " Written by Ryan Calo	Where to Access Text	Calo, Ryan. "Can You Sue A Robot For Defamation?" <i>Forbes</i> . Forbes Magazine, 17 Mar. 2014. Web. 17 June 2014. http://www.forbes.com/sites/ryancalo/2014/03/17/can-you-sue-a-robot/
Text Description			
An Op-Ed article in <i>Forbes</i> magazine concerning legal issues surrounding people creating algorithms to compose news articles.			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	1050L 9.9	Text Length	502 words
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
The author addresses new technology capabilities and the possible impact on the creation of new laws. The author sues recent events to highlight his argument that the law will need to change to adapt to technology.		The author uses specific examples to build powerful claims. The moves made by the author are both subtle in transitions and obvious in the connections.	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
Students will need to be familiar with what a computer algorithm is and how it can be used to compose a text. The author references some "current" events like an earthquake and Amazon pricing issue.		The author's tone and use of satire are instrumental to understanding the humor in this op-ed piece.	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
Students will need knowledge of rhetoric to understand how the author makes his argument. Students may also struggle to understand how a computer can compose a piece of writing. They may also struggle with the idea that a crime could be committed by the actions resulting from a computer-based algorithm.			
Big Takeaway			
Calo uses satire to illustrate how an algorithmically generated story could be problematic for applying and creating laws (especially laws related to the First Amendment) RI 9-10.6			

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	Emergence Replicating Perpetrator	Malice Initiated Satire
Words that cannot be determined in context	Tortfeasor Reliance	Defamation Algorithm Libel