

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Frank Macchi	Event/Date:	TeachFest - July 29, 2014
Text and Author	<i>Letter in an American Missionary</i> by Saum Song Bo	Where to Access Text	A.P. US History Text-Voices of Freedom, Online
<p>Saum Song Bo was an Asian-American construction worker, working on the construction of the Statue of Liberty pedestal. This is a letter he wrote highlighting the irony that Asian Americans are working a symbol of something they are not receiving. He is disheartened to realize that while the US government is more than willing to let them work on the statue, they are unworthy of what it represents.</p>			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	1165+ Grade 10-12	Text Length	1 Page, <1000 words
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
<p>Saum Song Bo, a Chinese-American who is working on the construction of the Statue of Liberty in New York reflects upon the irony that he and his people are not enjoying the very freedom and liberty the statue represents.</p>		<p>The text is in the form of a letter. Looking at context clues, the title says that this is a letter, though it is not addressed to anyone or signed by the author. Each paragraph discusses a topic very different than the previous one, but as a whole they represent Bo's frustration, anger, and sadness.</p>	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
<p>Student background knowledge should include nativism, immigration policies of the late 1800's and the general tone towards non-whites of the late 1900s.</p>		<p>The author uses rhetorical language to appeal to the reader's emotions. In class, we would identify this as the work's <i>pathos</i>.</p>	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
<p>This passage could potentially challenge student by the use of rhetorical devices. The questions are not blatantly answered, potentially leading students on a wild goose chase if they are not aware the questions are indeed rhetorical.</p>			
Big Takeaway			
<p>During the 1800's, African-Americans were not the only race of people the government and white society took advantage of. Asians, along with Native Americans were practically forced to build America but were denied the freedoms and liberties they produced. Living during these times as a person without social and political privileges was extremely taxing, leading many to question the question the credibility of the United States Government.</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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discrimination (tier 2) • congress (tier 3) • barred (tier 2) • immigration (tier 3) • funds (tier 2) • lad (tier 2) • pedestal (tier 2) • contrasted (tier 2) • liberty (tier 3) • nationalities (tier 3) • deprived (tier 2) • statute (tier 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • subjected • phase (tier 2) • raised (tier 2) • subscription (tier 2) • missionary (tier 2)
Words that cannot be determined in context		