

Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
Created by:	Laureen Anthony	Event/Date:	July 29, 2014
Text and Author	"Letters from an American Farmer" by Michel-Guillame Jean de Crevecoeur	Where to Access Text	Textbook
Text Description			
<p>Persuasive essay – Age of Reason – de Crevecoeur sets up an argument to show how in America, a man defines his own destiny and does not have to share his labors with a hierarchal authority such as a prince or abbot. De Crevecoeur points out the unique characteristics of what makes an American and predicts that these unique qualities will forge a country unlike any seen before.</p>			
Quantitative			
Lexile and Grade Level	1215-1355 (http://www.mpsri.net/uploaded/documents/central_office/asstsuper/curriculum/ela20132014/Core_Books_Revised2014.pdf)	Text Length	635 words
Qualitative			
Meaning/Central Ideas		Text Structure/Organization	
<p>Comparison between the status/potential of a man in Europe vs. in America. The author starts by discussing that in Europe, poor people are essentially "country-less;" their lot does not change or improve regardless of where they live. The author then describes what makes an American different from a European – mixed ancestry means that he does not have a specific allegiance to "ancient prejudices and manners" that would constrain the European, and the new egalitarian laws of America. This new existence will inevitably result in a more vigorous "new race of men." He goes on to point out that in America, a man's labor is his own and he does not owe a "despotic prince" or "rich abbot" anything. Finally, the author posits that since the American is a "new man," he must therefore be willing to accept "new ideas."</p>		<p>Persuasive essay – logical argument</p>	
Prior Knowledge Demands		Language Features	
<p>Understanding of Age of Reason / Enlightenment Understanding of expectations pre separation of church and state Ability to understand the metaphor of a human as "growing" in America</p>		<p>Metaphor Rhetorical argument structure Logical argument</p>	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
<p>Vocabulary; ability to understand metaphor, ability to build an argument; ability to compare the two societies (Europe or America). A T-chart may be helpful in identifying the elements of life in Europe vs life in America.</p>			

Big Takeaway

Students will be able to use the arguments put forth by de Crevecoeur to support a persuasive essay that convinces a fellow European to come to America.

RL 11-12.5 – how does the author present his case that living in America is superior to living in Europe?

RL 11-12.7 – Incorporate the arguments used here along with Henry’s argument in “Letter to the Virginia Convention” and Paine’s argument in “The Crisis” to justify why a person from Europe should come to America.

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>Sore Procured Severity ample</p>	<p>Regenerate Metamorphosis Civil Allurement Pilgrims Mode Exuberant Allurement Principles Mode Transplantation</p>
Words that cannot be determined in context	<p>Industry Penury Posterity Abbot Vigor Servile penury</p>	<p>Affliction Despotic Asylum Alma Mater</p>