

## Text Complexity Analysis Template

Text complexity analysis			
<b>Created by:</b>	Tim Zeuschner	<b>Event/Date:</b>	CT Summer Academy July 29, 2014
<b>Text and Author</b>	Excerpts from <u>The Prince</u> by Niccolo Machiavelli	<b>Where to Access Text</b>	Available at the Modern World History Sourcebook, Glencoe-McGraw-Hill World History Text (used for this activity)
Text Description			
Political text written over 400 years ago... Gives advice to rulers in Renaissance Europe... Uses his writing to urge leaders to focus on the reality of the world rather than focusing on how things ought to be... Still a widely read book and spawned the term "Machiavellian".			
Quantitative			
<b>Lexile and Grade Level</b>	1510L, Grade 12	<b>Text Length</b>	@1400 words in McGraw-Hill excerpt, full text 31,000 words
Qualitative			
<b>Meaning/Central Ideas</b>		<b>Text Structure/Organization</b>	
The central meaning in this text is that a leader must focus on keeping his power. People cannot be trusted so a leader must be willing to morality aside and focus on keeping power through amoral means because the end justifies the means. These ideas are a direct challenge to the idea of Christian morality and other political works of the times ( <u>Utopia</u> ) which sought to describe the perfect society.		The <u>Prince</u> is a translated work over that is over 400 years old. It uses a formal style in advising a prince on how to govern. The text is written in the first person as it is offering advice to a ruler.	
<b>Prior Knowledge Demands</b>		<b>Language Features</b>	
This text (excerpt or entirety) requires a great deal of prior knowledge which will be an obstacle to deep comprehension. Students need to understand: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The changes in Europe as a result of the Renaissance</li> <li>2. The role of the Christian Church in the Renaissance</li> <li>3. The concept of monarchy and the exercise of power</li> </ol>		Machiavelli offers much praise to the prince to whom he is writing. Excerpts of this work will have abrupt transitions.  Readers will have to be made aware of the transitions to new topics, particularly if excerpts are being used.	
Potential Reader/Task Challenges			
Vocabulary will be a challenge as many seemingly easy words are used in a context that many students haven't seen. The formal writing style of the renaissance will also be a challenge. Additionally, the concept of amorality is challenging for students who view actions as right or wrong.			
Big Takeaway			
A leader must decide what philosophy is going to guide his or her leadership style. Machiavelli offers a choice that is in stark contrast to conventionally held beliefs of how a leader should lead.			

## 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"> <li>• desirous (Tier 2)</li> <li>• esteem (Tier 2)</li> <li>• volume (Tier 2)</li> <li>• adorned (Tier 2)</li> <li>• embellish (Tier 2)</li> <li>• presumptuous (Tier 2)</li> <li>• clement (Tier 2)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• extrinsic (Tier 2)</li> <li>• acquisition (Tier 3)</li> <li>• maintenance (Tier 2)</li> </ul>
Words that cannot be determined in context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• principality (Tier 3)</li> <li>• fickle (Tier 2)</li> <li>• avid (Tier 2)</li> <li>• piety (Tier 2)</li> <li>• majesty (Tier 2)</li> <li>• conjecture (Tier 2)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• amoral (Tier 3)</li> <li>• end (Tier 3)</li> <li>• fortune (Tier 2)</li> </ul>