Considering Text Complexity
A Group Discussion Activity
Facilitator Notes

Goal:
Participants will understand the reasoning and importance of the Common Core State Standards’ shift to increase the complexity of texts utilized in K-12 classrooms in order to prepare students for college and career readiness.

Distribute to Participants:
- CCSS Appendix A (pages 2-10)
- Questions to Guide Discussion

Directions:
- Independently read Text Complexity section found in Appendix A (pages 2-10). (Approximately 20 minutes)
- If time constraints exist, facilitators may elect to assign participants a section to read:
  - Part 1: Why Text Complexity Matters (pages 2-4)
  - Part 2: The Standards’ Approach to Text Complexity (pages 4-8)
  - Part 3: Key Considerations in Implementing Text Complexity (pages 8-10)
- Assign participants to small groups.
- Group members should use the Questions to Guide Discussion in order to extend their thinking and prepare them for future work pertaining to text complexity. (Participants who read all parts (pages 2-10) may choose 2 questions from each section) (Approximately 30 minutes)
- Invite each group to share out their findings with the larger group: (Approximately 30 minutes)
  - If participants read pages 2-10 independently, each group should:
    - share one or two questions that evoked rich discussions.
  - If each participant read only one part, each group should:
    - provide a synopsis of the section that includes key ideas and findings.
    - share one question that evoked the best discussion.
- Encourage the large group to engage in conversation about all sections read.