Evaluate the three dimensions of a text’s complexity allows you to determine its grade level appropriateness. The following approach allows you to do this with open source materials to build your knowledge and apply it to texts in the future.

1. **Build knowledge about text complexity:** Read the section titled “The Standards’ Approach to Text Complexity from [Appendix A](http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_A.pdf) of the Common Core Standards (pages 4-8).
2. **Review the text complexity qualitative rubric from Student Achievement Partners:** Study the qualitative [rubrics](http://achievethecore.org/dashboard/300/search/1/1/0/1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10/11/12/page/656/finding-ccss-grade-levels-for-texts-scass-rubrics-list-pg) for both literary and informational texts alongside the [Qualitative Features Companion Guide](http://achievethecore.org/content/upload/Companion_to_Qualitative_Scale_Features_Explained.pdf) to understand the qualitative features of a text.
3. **Apply these tools to analyze a text**:
   1. Read Frederick Douglass’s *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass an American Slave, Written by Himself* from [Appendix B](http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf) of the Common Core Standards (pages 90-91).
   2. *Optional*: Lexile.com is a resource to find the Lexile of a text. We also know that the Lexile is appropriate for the 6-8 grade range because it is included in the Appendix.
   3. Use the [qualitative rubric for informational texts](http://achievethecore.org/content/upload/SCASS_Info_Text_Complexity_Qualitative_Measures_Info_Rubric_2.8.pdf) and the companion guide (linked above) to take notes about the text’s qualitative complexity. You may capture thoughts using the [Grades 6-8 Qualitative Scale Chart](http://achievethecore.org/dashboard/300/search/1/1/0/1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10/11/12/page/657/finding-ccss-grade-levels-for-texts-qualitative-scales-list-pg) from Student Achievement Partners.
   4. Make a final recommendation about the text’s overall placement.
4. **Check the complexity rating**: Compare your final rating to the analysis completed by the authors of [Appendix A](http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_A.pdf) of the Common Core (page 12). Determine what was similar and different to how you approached your analysis.
5. **<<Optional>> Continue to practice**: If you would like another norming opportunity, use the text *The Longitude Prize* located on page 9 of the [Supplement to Appendix A](http://achievethecore.org/content/upload/corestandards_supplement_to_appendix_a_new_research_on_text_complexity_ela.pdf) and follow the approach outlined in Step 3. Make sure to use the [Grades 9-10 Qualitative Scale Chart](http://achievethecore.org/dashboard/300/search/1/1/0/1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10/11/12/page/657/finding-ccss-grade-levels-for-texts-qualitative-scales-list-pg).