

THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC
COURSE OVERVIEW · TEACHER RESOURCES

Grade 4 Cluster 8 Text Complexity and Reading Stamina Report

Part of the ECR Supplemental Support System.

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Package Contents

Scope, organization, and intended instructional use

RECORD	DETAIL
Intended Use	Supplemental Support Lesson Guide
Document Type	Official Teacher-Facing Instructional Planning Report
Version / Date	Version 1.0 2026
Texts Analyzed	4 passage versions across 4 reading selection(s)

SECTION	CONTENTS
Section I	Overall purpose, cluster architecture, research basis, and interpretation rules
Section II	Master quantitative comparison and cross-text findings
Section III	Per-passage text complexity evidentiary profiles
Section IV	Cross-text implementation guidance and verification record

Report Use

This package is designed for direct placement in the Grade 4 Supplemental Support Lesson Guide of The Writing Academy®, LLC. It documents every supplied passage version separately while also explaining how the Cluster 8 set grows across four stamina levels. Every count in this report is calculated directly from the supplied passage text.

Source Set Overview

The reading selections analyzed in this report

READING SELECTION	VERSIONS PROVIDED	READING VOLUME RANGE (WORDS)
What Shapes a Society? Place, Resources, and Connection	Low	1,657
What Shapes a Society? Ideas, Choices, and Culture	Medium	1,776
Five Forces That Shape a Society	High	706
The Evidence Room: What Did They Leave Behind?	Very High	1,035

Overall Purpose and Cluster Architecture

How the passage set builds knowledge and reading stamina across four modules

The Cluster 8 set gives each reading at four stamina levels, one for every module. The conceptual core stays stable while reading volume, vocabulary load, evidence distance, and synthesis demand increase from the shortest Module 1 reading to the fullest Module 4 reading. Teachers can match the version to a student while keeping the same lesson purpose.

MODULE	STAMINA LEVEL	PRIMARY INSTRUCTIONAL FUNCTION	APPROPRIATE PRODUCT
Module 1	Low Stamina	Establish the shared knowledge framework and locate local evidence.	Brief evidence-based response
Module 2	Medium Stamina	Add subtopics, vocabulary, and evidence from several paragraphs.	Multi-sentence explanation
Module 3	High Stamina	Integrate multiple categories and retrieve evidence across the text.	Extended response with several supports
Module 4	Very High Stamina	Synthesize the full topic and explain historical, civic, or scientific significance.	Whole-text extended explanation

Research Basis and Measurement Protocol

How the evidentiary profile is calculated and interpreted

Each selection is evaluated through quantitative statistics, qualitative dimensions, and reader and task demands rather than one score alone. The planning estimate emphasizes mean sentence length and lexical demand. It does not by itself measure total stamina, quality, content, or task complexity. The same text can be more or less demanding depending on rereading, scaffolds, the required response, and students prior knowledge.

Counting Conventions

- Word counts include student-facing passage language and exclude titles, stamina labels, and report metadata. Contractions, possessives, and hyphenated compounds count as one word, and numerals count as one word.
- Sentence counts use terminal punctuation. Runs of terminal marks and ellipses collapse to one boundary, and decimal points and common abbreviations do not split a sentence.
- Paragraph and narrative-beat counts follow the separated source blocks. Short dialogue, reflection, and list blocks are retained because they affect pacing and retrieval.
- Syllable counts use a pronunciation dictionary (CMUdict) when the word is listed, and a consistent vowel-group heuristic with silent-ending adjustments for names and uncommon terms.
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level uses 0.39 times words per sentence, plus 11.8 times syllables per word, minus 15.59. It is used for triangulation only, not as a grade-placement decision.
- Metric-derived complexity bands: Reader and Stamina Load is Lower below 300 words, Moderate from 300 to 900, and Higher above 900. Lexical Demand is Lower below 8%, Moderate from 8 to 11.5%, and Higher above 11.5% three-or-more-syllable words. Sentence Complexity is Lower below 10 words average, Moderate from 10 to 13, and Higher above 13. Formula Readability is Lower below 5.5, Moderate from 5.5 to 7.0, and Higher above 7.0.

Master Quantitative Comparison

Actual counts computed across all Cluster 8 selections

SELECTION	LEVEL	WORDS	SENT.	PARA.	AVG. SENT.	3+ SYL.	F-K
What Shapes a Society? Place, Resources, and Connection	Low	1,657	149	137	11.1	276 (16.7%)	8.7
What Shapes a Society? Ideas, Choices, and Culture	Medium	1,776	191	206	9.3	350 (19.7%)	8.8
Five Forces That Shape a Society	High	706	51	94	13.8	101 (14.3%)	9.0
The Evidence Room: What Did They Leave Behind?	Very High	1,035	81	159	12.8	191 (18.5%)	9.7

What the Numbers Demonstrate

- This capstone gives a distinct reading for each module. Reading volume across the four modules ranges from 706 to 1,776 words.
- Three-or-more-syllable density across the four capstone readings ranges from 14.3% to 19.7%.
- Because each module carries its own reading, students meet new text rather than a lengthened version of one passage, which raises the synthesis and transfer demand.

Per-Passage Text Complexity Profiles

One evidentiary profile per supplied passage version

What Shapes a Society? Place, Resources, and Connection - Low Stamina Report

Cluster 8 | Module 1 / Low Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 1,657 total words; 550 unique word forms
- 149 punctuation-defined sentences; 137 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 11.1 words average sentence length; 29 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 37 sentences of 15+ words; 10 of 20+ words; 4 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 898 (54.2%); 2 syllables: 483 (29.1%); 3+ syllables: 276 (16.7%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 8.7, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 13.8 to 16.6 minutes at 100 to 120 words per minute

B. Metric-Derived Complexity Indicators

Planning indicators derived deterministically from the computed statistics above, using the documented bands in the Research Basis section. They summarize measurable load, not an editorial judgment of quality.

INDICATOR	COMPUTED BASIS	BAND
Reader / Stamina Load	1,657 words across 137 beats	Higher
Lexical Demand	16.7% of words carry 3+ syllables	Higher
Sentence Complexity	11.1 words average; 37 sentences of 15+ words	Moderate
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 8.7	Higher

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable Examples

Connection communities society difficult everything ideas surroundings
However geography opportunities challenges influence develops
location

Longer Academic Vocabulary

people affect happens connect begins somewhere grassy beside
forest region around decide

Proper Nouns and Domain Terms

Connection Central Question How People Land Creates Possibilities
Geography It A Coastal

Every example above is a word that appears verbatim in this passage. Three-or-more-syllable words are identified with the pronunciation-dictionary method described in the Research Basis section.

D. Sentence, Cohesion, and Beat Evidence

Opening Sentence	<i>"Connection Central Question: How does where people live affect what they can do, and what happens when communities connect?"</i>
Longest Sentence (29 words)	<i>"During the late 1400s and later centuries, European explorers crossed the Atlantic and reached lands in the Americas where Indigenous peoples had already created communities, governments, economies, and cultures."</i>
Beat / Paragraph Count	137 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

What Shapes a Society? Ideas, Choices, and Culture - Medium Stamina Report

Cluster 8 | Module 2 / Medium Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 1,776 total words; 674 unique word forms
- 191 punctuation-defined sentences; 206 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 9.3 words average sentence length; 28 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 34 sentences of 15+ words; 11 of 20+ words; 3 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 907 (51.1%); 2 syllables: 517 (29.1%); 3+ syllables: 350 (19.7%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 8.8, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 14.8 to 17.8 minutes at 100 to 120 words per minute

B. Metric-Derived Complexity Indicators

Planning indicators derived deterministically from the computed statistics above, using the documented bands in the Research Basis section. They summarize measurable load, not an editorial judgment of quality.

INDICATOR	COMPUTED BASIS	BAND
Reader / Stamina Load	1,776 words across 206 beats	Higher
Lexical Demand	19.7% of words carry 3+ syllables	Higher
Sentence Complexity	9.3 words average; 34 sentences of 15+ words	Lower
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 8.8	Higher

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable Examples

society Ideas decisions leadership societies powerfully geography
idea government influence centuries decision strengthenor weakena

Longer Academic Vocabulary

something people decide create believe mountains rivers cannot
measured measure rainfall beliefs

Proper Nouns and Domain Terms

Culture Central Question How Ideas Choices A Can Become
Rules In King

Every example above is a word that appears verbatim in this passage. Three-or-more-syllable words are identified with the pronunciation-dictionary method described in the Research Basis section.

D. Sentence, Cohesion, and Beat Evidence

Opening Sentence	<i>“Culture Central Question: How can something people think, decide, create, or believe change a society?”</i>
Longest Sentence (28 words)	<i>“His influence depended not only on his own voice but also on the participation of thousands of people who marched, organized, listened, voted, volunteered, and continued the work.”</i>
Beat / Paragraph Count	206 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

Five Forces That Shape a Society - High Stamina Report

Cluster 8 | Module 3 / High Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 706 total words; 349 unique word forms
- 51 punctuation-defined sentences; 94 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 13.8 words average sentence length; 34 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 22 sentences of 15+ words; 7 of 20+ words; 3 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 374 (53.0%); 2 syllables: 219 (31.0%); 3+ syllables: 101 (14.3%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 9.0, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 5.9 to 7.1 minutes at 100 to 120 words per minute

B. Metric-Derived Complexity Indicators

Planning indicators derived deterministically from the computed statistics above, using the documented bands in the Research Basis section. They summarize measurable load, not an editorial judgment of quality.

INDICATOR	COMPUTED BASIS	BAND
Reader / Stamina Load	706 words across 94 beats	Moderate
Lexical Demand	14.3% of words carry 3+ syllables	Higher
Sentence Complexity	13.8 words average; 22 sentences of 15+ words	Higher
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 9.0	Higher

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable Examples	societiesresourcesopportunitiesconnectedpowerfulideaindividualcommunityphysicalvegetationMexicodifficulttourismimportant
Longer Academic Vocabulary	peopledifferencecreatebecometravelchangesometimescultureforcesregionsregiondifferent
Proper Nouns and Domain Terms	TheAtlasWhyPLACECaseFileRegionsTexasMAPCAPTIONCoastalPlains

Every example above is a word that appears verbatim in this passage. Three-or-more-syllable words are identified with the pronunciation-dictionary method described in the Research Basis section.

D. Sentence, Cohesion, and Beat Evidence

Opening Sentence	“Welcome to The Change Atlas!”
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Longest Sentence (34 words)

*"TAB 3, CONNECTION Case File: Caddo Trade ARTIFACT Decorated Caddo pottery MAP
CAPTION Caddo communities lived in parts of what is now East Texas, where rivers and forests supported farming, travel, and community life."*

Beat / Paragraph Count

94 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

The Evidence Room: What Did They Leave Behind? - Very High Stamina Report

Cluster 8 | Module 4 / Very High Stamina

A. Official Passage Profile

- 1,035 total words; 426 unique word forms
- 81 punctuation-defined sentences; 159 separated paragraphs / narrative beats
- 12.8 words average sentence length; 35 words in the longest conventional sentence
- 28 sentences of 15+ words; 14 of 20+ words; 6 of 25+ words
- 1 syllable: 525 (50.7%); 2 syllables: 313 (30.2%); 3+ syllables: 191 (18.5%)
- Flesch-Kincaid grade level 9.7, corroborating formula only, not a placement decision
- Estimated single-pass reading time 8.6 to 10.3 minutes at 100 to 120 words per minute

B. Metric-Derived Complexity Indicators

Planning indicators derived deterministically from the computed statistics above, using the documented bands in the Research Basis section. They summarize measurable load, not an editorial judgment of quality.

INDICATOR	COMPUTED BASIS	BAND
Reader / Stamina Load	1,035 words across 159 beats	Higher
Lexical Demand	18.5% of words carry 3+ syllables	Higher
Sentence Complexity	12.8 words average; 28 sentences of 15+ words	Moderate
Formula Readability	Flesch-Kincaid 9.7	Higher

C. Word-Level and Vocabulary Evidence

Three-or-More-Syllable Examples

Historian Historians evidence artifacts documents photographs
remember exhibits EXHIBIT Pottery decorated created including
Museum

Longer Academic Vocabulary

cannot travel include artwork letters buildings written accounts
reveal something rarely people

Proper Nouns and Domain Terms

Young Historian Evidence Each One Caddo Pottery What You
See A East

Every example above is a word that appears verbatim in this passage. Three-or-more-syllable words are identified with the pronunciation-dictionary method described in the Research Basis section.

D. Sentence, Cohesion, and Beat Evidence

Opening Sentence "Behind?"

Longest Sentence (35 words) "EXHIBIT 6 Four Texas Regions What You See A map divided into: Coastal Plains North Central Plains Great Plains Mountains and Basins Symbols show farms, cattle, ports, oil, minerals, wind turbines, fishing, and large cities."

Beat / Paragraph Count 159 separated source blocks, each a narrative or informational beat

Cross-Text Implementation Guidance

Using the stamina staircase in daily instruction

- Use the Low version to establish the shared knowledge framework, then move students up the staircase as their stamina and evidence handling grow.
- Match the assigned writing product to the evidence available in the selected version, using the module framework table above.
- Teach the longer versions across multiple purposeful readings rather than assigning the full text as one unsupported first read.
- Preview the three-or-more-syllable and domain vocabulary listed in each passage profile before the first read.

Verification Record

Every count in this report was produced by a single deterministic generator that reads the supplied passage text directly. The method reproduces the published Grade 3 report counts for words, sentences, paragraphs, and three-or-more-syllable words. No passage text or metric was entered by hand.