

Sources of Content Related Complex Text

Annotated List of Online Resources by Subject Area and Grade

Language Arts

Poetry Foundation: This website, created by *Poetry* magazine publisher Poetry Foundation, features articles about poetry in the form of interviews and essays. The website has a search box so educators can search for specific topics, such as elliptical poetry, or certain poets. The website offers several RSS feeds, such as Poem of the Day and Glossary Term of the Day, which educators may find useful for sparking ideas for future lessons.

Link: <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/features/articles>

Word count: Usually 2,000–3,000 words per article

High School

Ploughshares: This website, maintained by Emerson College, allows visitors to sample pieces of the *Ploughshares* magazine which publishes fiction, poetry, and essays. Each issue has a guest editor; past editors have included Seamus Heaney and Tobias Wolff. The website also hosts a blog which offers more articles on literary themes, publishers, and book reviews.

Link: <http://www.pshares.org/index.cfm>

Word count: Usually 1,500–2,000 words per literary piece

High School

Common Core State Standards Appendix B: Text Exemplars and Sample Performance Tasks. This 180 page resource provides extensive lists of titles, excerpts, examples, and media links to help students prepare for reading text from kindergarten to college and career readiness. Divided into six grade level groups of K–1, 2–3, 4–5, 6–8, 9–10, 11–CCR, genres include stories, poetry, informational text for a variety of subject including STEM, and drama.

Link: http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf

Word count: Variable and appropriate to grade level

Primary, Upper Elementary, Middle, High School

Science

HighlightsKids: Produced by Highlights for Children, this website contains content for children aged 2–12. The articles are mostly on biology and nature with some additional topics such as space exploration. The website has a limited search feature, but it does have recordings of the articles which may be helpful for educators of younger students.

Link: <http://www.highlightskids.com/articles>

Word count: Usually 350–500 words per article

Primary, Upper Elementary School

Super Science: Maintained by Scholastic, this source of nonfiction science content covers the areas of Life, Earth, and Physical sciences. Review quizzes and activities are included with each magazine or online issue for assessment and reinforcement, and Teacher's guides are provided that include lesson plans, activities, links, quizzes, and standards connections.

Link: <http://superscience.scholastic.com>

Word count: Varies, usually 500+ words

Elementary, Middle School

Science News for Students: A resource of the *Society for Science & the Public* that focuses on providing science resources for the classroom. The articles are organized by curriculum topics such as Anatomy, Biology, Chemistry, Forensic Science, Marine Biology, Physics, and include subheadings for a more refined search of a specific topic. At the end of each article, there is a list of "Power Words," vocabulary words specific to the article with definitions. The Science Projects Resources section has standards and guidelines that help the first-time researcher to the advanced student discover high-quality, independent scientific research. Both teachers and students can sign up for this web site's newsletter and updates.

Link: <https://student.societyforscience.org/sciencenews-students>

Word count: Varies, 500-2000 words per article, typically 1000

Upper Elementary, Middle, High School

Ranger Rick: Hosted by the National Wildlife Federation, *Ranger Rick* contains articles designed for students aged 7–12, accessed on the homepage by clicking on the links in the *Ranger Rick* magazine box in the middle of the page. Educators can also use the search box at the top of the site's web pages to find articles on particular topics. This website is limited to articles pertaining to animals and nature. -

Link: <http://www.nwf.org/Kids/Ranger-Rick.aspx>

Word count: Usually 400–1,000 words per article

Upper Elementary, Middle School

Scientific American: Maintained by Scientific American Inc., this website publishes articles on such topics as fuel cells, dinosaurs, neurology, and quantum physics. Educators can subscribe to a RSS feed for each of these topics, allowing them to see when relevant articles become available. The site also offers a search box on its pages.

Link: <http://www.scientificamerican.com/>

Word count: Usually 600–900 words per article

Middle, High School

ChemMatters: Produced by the American Chemical Society, this website contains articles from *ChemMatters* magazine that are aimed at high school students. From the homepage, educators can access free articles in current and past issues and obtain sample questions and reading strategies through Teacher's Guides. Topics focused solely on chemistry include metals and nonmetals, food, and bonding. The site also provides Spanish translation for selected articles.

Link: <http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/resources/highschool/chemmatters.html>

Word count: Usually 1,000–2,000 words per article

High School

The National High School Journal of Science: This website is offered by and contains articles from *The National High School Journal of Science* which is a free, peer-reviewed journal written by and for high school students. The journal has a Scientist Advisory Board of professionals from across the health sciences and engineering fields who help review the articles before publication. Educators can browse the most recent edition on the homepage or browse by subject using the Subjects tab. Subjects covered include physics, biology, STEM, and environment.

Link: <http://nhsjs.com/>

Word count: Usually 2,000–2,500 words per article

High School

Discover: Owned by Kalmbach Publishing, this site is a companion to *Discover* magazine. Articles are categorized by topic such as health and medicine, space and physics, and environment and are further divided into subtopics such as climate change and pollution. A select number of articles from the current issue are available for free as are some articles in the issue archive which goes back to 1987. Educators can also sign up for RSS feeds to receive new articles.

Link: <http://discovermagazine.com/>

Word count: Usually 600–1,500 words per article

High School

Social Studies

KidsPost: This website is owned by *The Washington Post* and contains articles specifically for students in grades 2–7. Its search box and Best of *KidsPost* section help educators navigate the collection of articles on current events (both national and international), politics, sports, and art, among others. Featured sections offer longer articles for students at higher reading levels, while the rest of the website has shorter articles for those at the primary school level.

Link: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/>

Word count: Usually 300–700 words per article

Primary, Upper Elementary, Middle School

Reading Like a Historian: This website from Stanford University has 73 U.S. history lessons, 37 world history lessons, and 5 on historical thinking. Each lesson provides relevant background information, poses a central historical question, gets students reading documents and answering guiding questions, and stimulates whole-class discussion. Among the topics: Salem Witch Trials, Slavery in the Constitution, Hamilton v. Jefferson, Sharecropping, Chinese Immigration and Exclusion, Battle of Little Bighorn, Spanish-American War, Jacob Riis, Child Labor, Anti-Suffragists, Scopes Trial, The Atomic Bomb, Zoot Suit Riots, Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, Women in the 1950s, Stonewall Riots

Link: <https://sheg.stanford.edu/rh>

High School

Science and Social Studies

National Geographic Kids: This website, run by the National Geographic Society, contains an online database of articles that allows educators to limit their search by category, including geography, history, mythology, nature, science, and space, and by content type such as article, challenge, and video. At the end of each article, a Dive Deeper section links to articles on a similar topic, helping educators select more than one relevant article.

Link: <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore.html#>

Word count: Usually 400–500 words per article

Primary, Upper Elementary, Middle School

TIME for Kids: Maintained by TIME Inc., *TIME for Kids* contains an archive of full-text articles sorted by topic, including world, science, health, and sports. In the Polls section, educators can read the findings from online survey questions, such as “Should national parks allow the use of cell phones?” which could provide source material for argument writing. The website also has a search box for educators looking for a specific topic.

Link: <http://www.timeforkids.com>

Word count: Usually 500–600 words per article

Primary, Upper Elementary School

DOGOnews: This website, hosted by DOGO Media, publishes articles on social studies and science for students aged 9–13. It tags each article with a suggested grade level or span and provides lesson plans based on Common Core Standards. The homepage features both a search box for keyword searches and a Popular Articles section of articles deemed popular based on the number of comments written about the article.

Link: <http://www.dogonews.com/>

Word count: Usually 400–600 words per article

Primary, Upper Elementary, Middle School

Newsweek: The companion site of *Newsweek* magazine contains articles about current events occurring nationally and internationally. Articles are categorized by topic such as US, world, business, and culture. The site also contains science material in the Tech and Science section. Educators can utilize the search box at the top of the page and browse the archives at the page footer to further research articles. Articles are tagged with keywords to ease a search for more access on the topic.

Link: <http://www.newsweek.com/us>

Word count: Usually 500–1,000 words per article

High School

Math

Plus: Online magazine *Plus* publishes articles and podcasts about the practical applications of mathematics across a span of topics such as art, medicine, sports, and cosmology. Articles in the News section reveal how recent news stories are often based on some underlying piece of math. The search feature is limited, and the articles are mainly organized in chronological order. However, tying applied mathematics to topics such as the movie *Jurassic Park* and space travel should help hold students' interest.

Link: <http://plus.maths.org/content/Article>

Word count: Usually 600–1,000 words per article

High School

The New York Times—Mathematics: This section of *The New York Times* currently features over 1,000 articles about mathematics and the instruction of it in school systems. *NYT's* tagging system includes such subjects as education, Nobel Prizes, and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. A search box in the page header allows for keyword searching as well.

Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/topic/subject/mathematics>

Word count: Usually 500–1,000 words per article

High School

Biographies of Women Mathematicians: Hosted and maintained by Agnes Scott College, this website is a collection of biographies of women mathematicians spanning time and the globe. Although the resource format is limited to biographies, educators may find it to be a good resource for introducing role models to their classes. The website's material is sorted by an alphabetical index of the women's names, a chronological index, and a geographical index of the women's birth locations.

Link: <http://www.agnesscott.edu/lriddle/women/women.htm>

Word count: Usually 600–800 words per article

Middle, High School

Math and Science

NOVA scienceNOW: A companion site to the PBS television series *NOVA*, this website contains a variety of videos and articles on several topics, such as space and flight, body and brain, physics and math, and tech and engineering. After selecting a topic, an educator can narrow results to articles, short video, audio story, or full episode. The search results provide a one-sentence summary of the article, which will help educators quickly access relevant articles and sources.

Link: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/sciencenow/>

Word count: Usually 1,500–2,500 words per article

Middle, High School

Scholastic News: This website, a companion to *Scholastic News* magazines, contains an archive of news articles on a variety of topics, including uses of mathematics and scientific discoveries. For example, “A Deeper Mystery at Stonehenge” describes the ancient site in England, while “Movie Matchmaker” explores how Netflix uses algorithms. View Classroom Magazines to select science publications for elementary or secondary grades. However, the lack of a search box means educators must use an article’s one-sentence description to find the content they need or use a separate search engine, such as Google.

Link: <http://magazines.scholastic.com/>

Word count: Usually 500–600 words per article

Primary, Upper Elementary School

National Geographic STEM Education: This resource was developed based on the idea that the best practices in STEM education include a combination of hands-on learning with content learning through communication and collaboration. The website includes a collection of hands-on multimedia activities, worksheets, lessons, video, and interactive whiteboard content for a wide array of STEM topics. Articles are broken down by content and grade level and include highlighted vocabulary words with a link to the definitions.

Link: https://www.nationalgeographic.org/education/stem-education/?ar_a=1

Word count: Varies, typically 500-1000 words per article

Pre-K through Post Secondary

General

Newsela - The following description of Newsela was taken from an EdNET News Alert, March 24, 2015: "Newsela unlocks the written word by publishing daily news articles at five reading levels to engage students in grades 2–12 in high-interest topics from immigration and diplomacy to drones and animal extinction. Launched in 2013, students have read more than 37 million Newsela articles, making Newsela the number 1 online news source for students. When students read articles and take Common Core-aligned quizzes online, they are developing the critical nonfiction literacy skills that empower them to take part in conversations about complex issues, and prepare them for academic and professional success."

Link: <https://newsela.com/about/>

Word Count: Usually 500-1000 words per article

Elementary, Middle, High School

ReadWorks: This website provides research-based units, lessons, and authentic, leveled nonfiction and literary passages to educators online. ReadWorks curriculum is aligned to the Common Core State Standards and the standards of all 50 states. Features include Article-A-Day and Starter ELL. The information is free and can be shared broadly. Educators can create an account by entering an email and password.

Link: <https://www.readworks.org/>

Word Count: Usually 400-900 words per article

Elementary, Middle, High School

ProCon.org: ProCon.org is a non-profit public charity founded in 2004. The charity's purpose is to provide resources for critical thinking without bias. A variety of controversial issues are highlighted in a balanced, transparent pro-con format that allows the reader to better understand important social issues and to make more informed decisions about them. Date and source information for all research is cited in multiple style protocols and the available resources are for readers ranging from elementary to university levels.

Link: <http://www.procon.org>

Word Count: Varies

Elementary, Middle, High, University

TextProject, Inc.: This organization strives to bring beginning and struggling readers to higher levels of literacy through a variety of strategies and tools, particularly texts used for reading instruction and also outstanding pictures to use for vocabulary instruction. Specifically, *FYI for Kids* contains a great collection of magazine articles designed to enhance the Common Core classroom's reading repertoire. The aim of this project is to demonstrate text that is essential for increasing students' engagement and proficiency with complex texts—short engaging articles that communicate critical information and are free to the viewer.

Link: <http://textproject.org/>

Word Count: 300-350 words per article

Elementary

General Reading Recommendations for High School Students

Unsurprisingly, research studies show that reading passages about familiar content is easier than reading about unfamiliar content. Daniel Willingham, a noted cognitive psychologist at the University of Virginia believes, "Every reading comprehension test is a test of background knowledge in disguise."

So the question becomes how do you expand background knowledge? Erica Meltzer, the author of *The Critical Reader: The Complete Guide to SAT Reading* has a list of periodicals and newspapers she highly recommends. *Barron's SAT* also has a highly recommended list. Here are the recommendations they have in common.

- [*The New York Times*](#)
- [*The Economist*](#)
- [*Scientific American*](#)
- [*The Atlantic*](#)

By regularly reading these four publications, students can increase their background knowledge and become more comfortable with complex nonfiction text written with general academic vocabulary in a formal style.

High School

Kelly Gallagher's Article of the Week: A great source of articles assigned by a respected teacher and author. Kelly assigns an Article of the Week every Monday morning to help build students' background knowledge after he realized that students "can decode the words, but the words remain meaningless without a foundation of knowledge." To each article, Kelly adds three guidelines for reading and Possible Response Questions to build thinking, analytic, and writing skills.

Link: <http://www.kellygallagher.org/article-of-the-week/>

High School