

## How to use Text and Task Sets

In the last video you learned what a text and task set is, as well as the various components that make it up. Now that we know the features of the text and task sets, we can look at how the sets might be used in your classroom. One of the first things you should consider is your reader. Your use of the text and the task should be reflective of your instructional priorities and your understanding of your students and their strengths and learning needs. Ask yourself some of these questions. Who are your readers? Are they English language learners? Students with disabilities? Sixth graders in their first month at school? What supports what you need to put in place to allow them to successfully access these complex texts? How much time might you need to allow for the close reading of each text? Let's use one of the sets as an example to illustrate.

Imagine that you're in a 11<sup>th</sup> grade social studies teacher about to begin a unit on the constitution and your school has purchased the 11<sup>th</sup> grade constitution text and task set. Perhaps you're using this set in a class that has a significant ELL population. A considerable portion of this set requires readers to grapple with Supreme Court decisions which often contain tier 2 and tier 3 vocabulary. Knowing your students and the type of demands that this reading will make on them, you may choose to provide a glossary for some of the vocabulary to help them through the text. Though the set comes with a sequence of text dependent questions, you want to develop a wider range of questions at each of the web's depth of knowledge levels.

Remember that the question should be open ended and rely on the text for their answers. These questions will be the primary vehicle for students to access the text and make meaning of the content. As you begin to infuse literacy into the content areas in an effort to meet the Citywide Instructional Expectations, these text and task sets provide a valuable starting point, they also serve as a model for how you might create your own sets to provide close reading opportunities for other units of study.

In coming videos we'll walk you through the process of creating your own text and task set, from locating text and analyzing them for complexity to creating tasks that draw authentically on the text and align to the Common Core learning standards.