

Guide to Chunking a Text

Step 1: Select a text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consider a text (see examples below) that is at grade level and that may be challenging for students to read independently. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scientific article ○ Primary source document ○ Poem ○ Portion of a novel for a close reading
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Step 2: Set a purpose for reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What are students looking for as they read? ● You may choose to have a purpose for Read #1 and another purpose for Read #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Example: “The Gettysburg Address” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Read #1: Read to learn why the soldiers fought in the Civil War ■ Read #2: Read to learn what words and phrases Lincoln uses to honor the fallen soldiers
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Step 3: Set up your document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decide how you want to break up the text into sections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Example ● Determine number of chunks you will need ● Use template to drop portions of the text into sections
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Section	The Gettysburg Address	Questions to consider
1	Executive Mansion, Washington, 1863 Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that “all men are created equal.”	Who or what is this section about? How long is “four score and seven years”?
2	Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure . We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it, as a final resting place for those who died here, that the nation might live.	What words stand out to you in section 2? Highlight a word or two that seem powerful or important. What is this section telling us? How do you know?

Step 4: Determine your questions for each chunk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The template can be used “as is” with the current questions, and/or ● You may choose to include a question about a particular word or phrase that may be challenging or important to emphasize ● You may ask students to write synonyms for particular words ● Suggested general questions that will aid in understanding the text: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Who or what is this sentence about? ○ What does the word “___” mean? ○ Who or what is this chunk about? ○ What new information does this chunk add? ○ What does the phrase “___” mean? ○ Who is the author referring to in this section? ○ What new information does this section add?
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Step 5: Prepare to facilitate the chunked reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Determine if students will read the text digitally or on a paper copy ● Facilitate reading using a document camera or other projection tool
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