## How to Estimate Readability for Consent Forms and Assent Forms

Kristen D. Ritchey, School of Education Presentation to UD IRB for Human Subjects Research, April 2011 meeting

### **Text Readability**

The text readability is important for consent and assent forms to ensure that potential participants can access information to give informed consent to participate in research activities. The readability of text is influenced by the phonological/morphological difficulty of words, number of words/sentence, the number of syllables in words/sentence, and frequency (i.e., how often a given word appears in printed materials) of words within the text. Text readability formula can be computed by hand or using software/web based procedures and can be estimated using procedures including Flesch-Kincaid, Dale-Chall, Spache, and Lexiles

#### The Easy Method: Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level Readability

Determining the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level Readability is an option in the Spelling and Grammar Check in Microsoft Word.



<u>Readability Statistics</u> are presented in a Grade. Month format (e.g.,  $5.6 = \text{middle of } 5^{\text{th}}$  grade readability)

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			<b>H</b> IVERSITY C	Readability Statistics Counts Words Characters Paragraphs Sentences Averages Sentences per Paragraph	? X   726 3898   28 36   2.7 2.7	Willard Hall Newark, DE 19716-2922 Phone: 302-831-2573 Fax: 302-831-4110	
			We will share your child help them plan instructio and the school will not b presented by group and and any identifying info	Words per Sentence Characters per Word Readability Passive Sentences Flesch Reading Ease Flesch Kincaid Grade Level	18.3 4.8 30% 52.5 10.2 OK	ymation may but your child	
4		Contact for Additional It. For questions about the details of the study and or the procedures <u>or</u> if you would like a copy of the findings, please contact the Principal Investigators: Kristen Ritchey and David Coker, School of Education, University of Delaware, Willard Hall Education Building, Newark, DE 19716, dcoker @udel.edu; 302-831-3096 and kritchey@udel.edu; 302-831-2325. If you have concerns, questions, or objections about this project, they should be reported to the Chair of the Human Subjects Review Board at 210 Hullihen Hall, University of Delaware at 302-831-2137.					
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# **Alternative Method: Lexile Levels**

Lexile levels are an estimate of text difficulty that takes into account word frequency and what is required for comprehension of text. This process is considered a more accurate indicator of text difficulty, but is slightly more challenging to access. Lexile levels are reported as an L Level.

Grade Ranges for Lexile Levels	Examples of Common Books		
Grade 3 Lexile range = 330L to 700L	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows: 980L		
Grade 5 Lexile range = 565L to 910L	Charlotte's Web: 680L		
Grade 10 Lexile range = 905L to 1195L	Twilight New Moon: 690L		
	The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe: 940L		
	Magic School Bus in the Time of Dinosaurs: 490L		
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Lexile Analyzer: <u>www.Lexile.com</u> has a Lexile Analyzer that is free, but requires sign up/log in Text has to be converted into a <u>plain text file</u> and uploaded to Lexile Analyzer

#### More information is available at

http://lexile.com/m/uploads/downloadablepdfs/The\_Lexile\_Framework\_for\_Reading.pdf