

Defending your text choice: Presenting

Selecting a worthwhile, complex text is one of the most important and difficult decisions you will make as you develop close reading instructional materials. Once you have selected a text that you think you want to use, you will want to get some feedback on that choice from a thought partner. Before sitting down with your partner to “defend” your text choice, take some time to answer the questions on the guide below.

Focus question	Your quick notes
Why did you choose this text? What makes it worthy of reading and rereading with your students?	
What instructional goals do you have for using this text?	
What choices did the author make? Why? What is the effect?	
Which parts are most challenging? Why?	
What does the text “scream” for you to teach?	

Defending your text choice: Listening

Help your partner by listening to their “defense” of the text selected for close reading. Use the guiding questions below to as you listen and as a frame for providing your partner with feedback.

Focus question	Your quick notes
Are your partner’s answers specific to this text? Do they use evidence from this text?	
Does your partner seem to have a clear idea of why this text is worth teaching and how it will help him/her accomplish instructional goals with students?	
Does the level of rigor match what is expected for students at this grade level?	
Has your partner thought about what makes this text complex and challenging?	
Is your partner considering multiple aspects of the whole text?	