

How to Choose “Juicy” Complex Excerpts and Sentences:

- 1. Excerpt must be tied closely to the **Essential Question** you are exploring. It must push the content and the concept. Since you will be spending some time exploring how the sentence unfolds and probing for meaning, selecting a “juicy” excerpt that uncovers key ideas as well as the language that frames these ideas is key to your selection.***
- 2. Sentence with **layered academic Tier 2 vocabulary**. Often, key ideas/concepts reside within these words and they carry content and meaning to the larger excerpt. New vocabulary would need instructional conversations to uncover meaning and to help students understand the power and intent in the choice of these academic words.***
- 3. Sentence that are **long and embedded** with main and dangling clauses, parts, phrases. Complex texts often are embedded with complex syntax that students might find difficult to navigate. Instructional conversations that help students uncover how the sentence unfolds, how to unpack meaning, and ultimately how to map meaning back to text are key to comprehension.***
- 4. Sentences with **figurative language** that merits attention. Helping students demystify figurative language not only for its meaning but why and how it works vis a vis the concept embedded in its use.***
- 5. Sentences with content specific **language functions** with interesting phrasal frames, cohesive devices, phraseology that merit attention. Specific content specific language functions of cause and effect, compare and contrast, hypothesizing, etc should be charted for further reference when reading and writing.***

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