

THE RAYGOR READABILITY ESTIMATE

PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY:

Devised by Alton Raygor (1977), this readability formula is designed specifically for middle/secondary level reading material. More reliable than formulas like the Fry Readability Graph (1977) which include syllable counts, the Raygor count is also easier to determine. Cautions about readability formulas are (1) as they give a grade-level score it is important to remember that grade level is rather ambiguous if we do not also consider a reader's prior knowledge, their interests, and background experiences and (2) other factors that should merit consideration include conceptual density, word frequency, and writing clarity.

DIRECTIONS:

STEP 1 The Raygor is really a lot simpler than it appears at first. The first step is to count out three 100 word passages, from the beginning, middle, and end of a book. The results of the Raygor are averaged out over these three passages. (A quick count can be conducted on one passage, but is not guaranteed to be as accurate). Don't count any numerals unless written out as numbers – i.e., do not count "43" but do count "forty-three".

STEP 2

Next count how many sentences you have. If the 100 word limit breaks a sentence in two, count all the words in that sentence, then estimate how many tenths of the sentence are used in your 100 word count. For instance, if you had 15 words in the entire sentence and only seven were part of your 100 word count, you would estimate $.5$ ($15/7 = 2 \frac{1}{7} = .5$).

STEP 3

Now take the 100 word passage and underline the words with 6 or more letters. Count how many words are in the passage.

STEP 4

To plot the results on the Raygor, find the total number of sentences in your passage on the vertical axis (left column) of the Raygor scale and place a dot on the margin closest to your number. Next find the number of words having six (6) or more letters on the horizontal axis (bottom scale) and again place a dot closest to that number. Now find the place where the dots intersect on the graph to arrive at your grade level. Remember that the grade level is only valid within the "parallel" lines. If your plot is in the top left area of the grid or the bottom right (outside of the parallel lines) your total is invalid for the purposes of this estimate.

	sentences	words
passage A	6.0	15
Passage B	6.8	19
Passage C	6.4	17
Total	19.2	51
Average	6.4	17

This gives you a readability of 5th grade.

