

Instructions for Reading Level Exercise

1. Navigate to a SMOG calculator (example: <https://www.textcompare.org/readability/smog-index/>). Note: SMOG stands for “Simple Measure of Gobbledygook” and is the preferred measurement tool to assess the U.S. grade level needed to comprehend text.
2. In a separate browser window, search “Rheumatoid Arthritis” to find patient educational materials. If you are having trouble finding sites, consider trying the following:
 - Mayo Clinic
 - UpToDate
 - WedMD
3. Cut and paste patient education information into the SMOG calculator to determine the reading level. When you hit “Process Text” you will get a number of calculations. Make note of the SMOG result.
4. Repeat the exercise with several different websites to get a sense of the grade level of materials available to patients on the internet.
5. Discussion questions:
 - a) Animating Questions
 - Were they surprised by the reading level of material on the internet? Was most of the material the right level for our patient population?
 - How might they imagine engaging patients about what’s available for them to read?
 - Share your experiences with patients bringing in medical information from the internet to their appointments? How does this challenge the interaction? How might it enrich the interaction?
 - How can we best harness the information out there to partner with patients in their health?