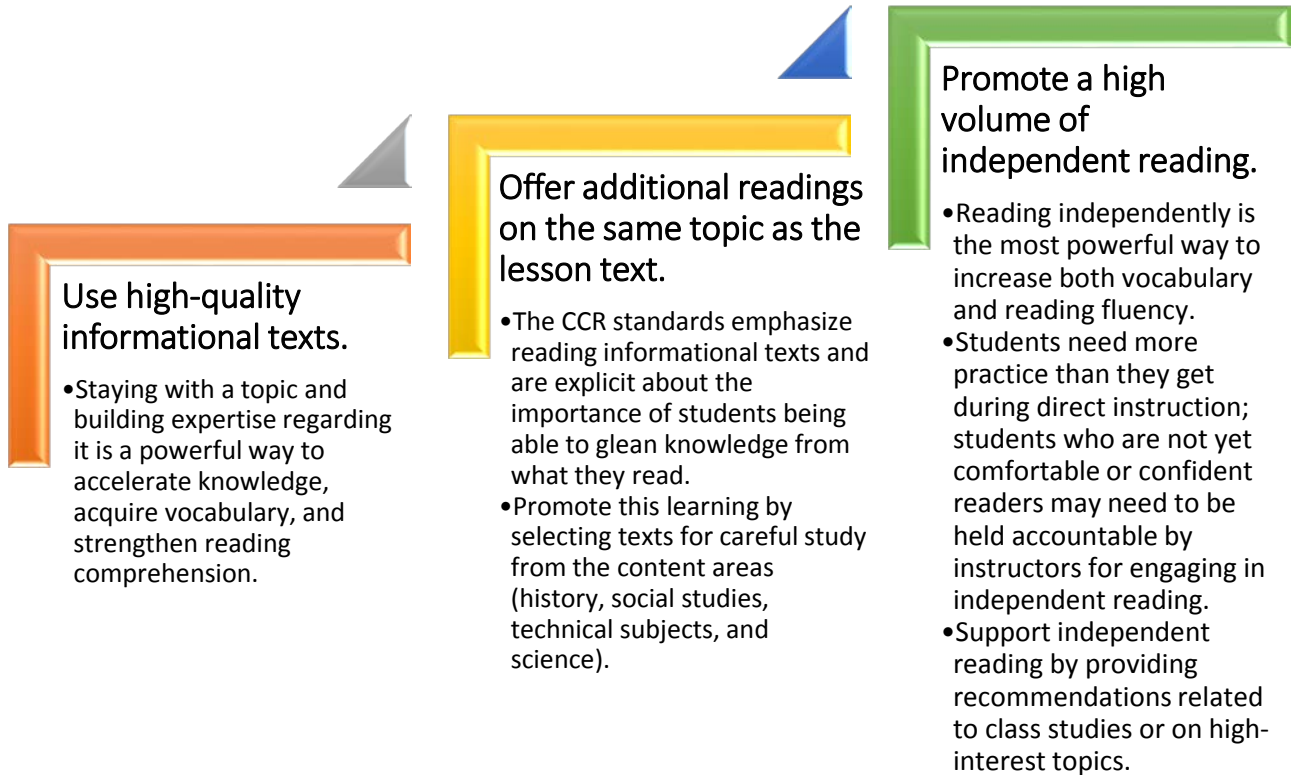


# BUILD KNOWLEDGE BY PROMOTING VOLUME OF READING

One of the three shifts (or advances) in the College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) is “building knowledge through content-rich nonfiction,” critically important for its power to accelerate student growth.



## General Tips on Finding and Selecting Additional Texts

- Book excerpts can be superb short texts.
- Consider materials that are available in print *and* digital formats.
- Primary documents can engage your students.
- The “text” can be more than words on a page: consider videos, graphics, charts, and photos.
- Consider the complexity, quality, and relevance of each suggested text or resource.
- If information from different articles overlaps, this is a plus, not a problem. What is known helps connect to what is new, and repetition is key to learning new academic vocabulary.

## Research in Support of Reading Volume and Building Knowledge

Recht, D. R., & Leslie, L. (1988). “Effect of prior knowledge on good and poor readers’ memory of text.” *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 80(1), 16.

This summary and synthesis of a vast body of research shows how knowledge of a subject aids thinking, memory, and learning of new information.

Knowledge of a topic leads to dramatically improved reading comprehension.

Willingham, D. T. (2006). “How knowledge helps.” *American Educator*, 30(1), 30-37.

Kintsch’s “situation model,” showing the essential role of knowledge in the comprehension process, forms the basis of much current comprehension research.

Kintsch, W. (1998). *Comprehension: A Paradigm for Cognition*. Cambridge University Press.

## Find Additional Readings on a Topic ~ a few of the many free resources

*Some require a free subscription.*

*As always, check for readability.*

### ❖ **Leveled (or sorted) Readings**

- CCSSO Text Sets [[www.ccsso.org/Navigating\\_Text\\_Complexity/Showroom\\_Models.html](http://www.ccsso.org/Navigating_Text_Complexity/Showroom_Models.html)]
- LINC'S Learner Center – Learn to Read [<https://learner.lincs.ed.gov/resources/reading>]
- Marshall Adult Education [[http://resources.marshalladulthoodeducation.org/reading\\_skills\\_home.html](http://resources.marshalladulthoodeducation.org/reading_skills_home.html)]
- NewsELA [<https://newsela.com/>]
- News For You (costs \$) [[www.newreaderspress.com/news-for-you-online](http://www.newreaderspress.com/news-for-you-online)]
- ReadWorks [[www.readworks.org/](http://www.readworks.org/)]
- ReadWriteThink [[www.readwritethink.org/](http://www.readwritethink.org/)]
- The Change Agent (*free to state--funded programs in New England*) [<http://changeagent.nelrc.org/in-the-classroom/>]

### ❖ **U.S. government websites**

- Census Bureau [[www.census.gov/](http://www.census.gov/)]
- Kids.gov [<https://kids.usa.gov/>]
- NASA [[www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/index.html)]
- National Park Service [[www.nps.gov/teachers/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/teachers/index.htm)]

### ❖ **Museum websites**

- American Museum of Natural History [[www.amnh.org/learn-teach/educators/](http://www.amnh.org/learn-teach/educators/)]
- National Women's History Museum [<https://www.nwhm.org/>]
- The Exploratorium [[www.exploratorium.edu/education/designing-teaching-learning-tools](http://www.exploratorium.edu/education/designing-teaching-learning-tools)]
- The Smithsonian [[www.si.edu/Educators](http://www.si.edu/Educators)]
- United States Memorial Holocaust Museum [[www.ushmm.org/](http://www.ushmm.org/)]

### ❖ **Other nonprofit organizations' websites**

- Facing History and Ourselves [<https://www.facinghistory.org/>]
- Independent Television Service (ITVS) [<http://itvs.org/educators/collections>]
- National Geographic Education [<http://education.nationalgeographic.org/>]
- PBS Learning Media [[www.pbslearningmedia.org/](http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/)]
- Primary Source [[www.primarysource.org/for-teachers](http://www.primarysource.org/for-teachers)]
- Teaching Tolerance [[www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources](http://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources)]

### ❖ **Encyclopedias and Reference Sources**

- World Book Online – Scott Fetzer [[www.worldbookonline.com](http://www.worldbookonline.com)]
- Encyclopedia Britannica Online [[www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com)]
- Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia and Encyclopedia Americana (Scholastic Grolier Online) (costs \$)
  - [<http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/grolier>]
- Oxford Reference Online (Oxford University Press) [[www.oxfordreference.com](http://www.oxfordreference.com)]

### ❖ **Library Catalogs, Vetted Lists, Reviews, Bibliographic Information, and Databases**

- American Library Association [[www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)]
- Library of Congress [[www.loc.gov/teachers/](http://www.loc.gov/teachers/)]
- Project Gutenberg [[www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org)]
- School Library Journal, Young Voices [[www.slj.com](http://www.slj.com); <http://youngvoicesadvocates.com>]
- Your local public library network, and research databases available through your library