The VALUE rubrics were developed by teams of faculty experts representing colleges and universities across the United States through a process that examined many campus rubrics and related documents for each learning outcome and incorporated additional feedback from faculty. The rubrics articulate fundamental criteria for each learning outcome, with performance descriptors demonstrating progressively more sophisticated levels of attainment. The rubrics are intended for institutional-level use in evaluating and discussing student learning, not for grading. The core expectations articulated in all 15 of the VALUE rubrics can and should be translated into the language of individual campuses, disciplines, and even courses. The utility of the VALUE rubrics is to position learning at all undergraduate levels within a basic framework of expectations such that evidence of learning can be shared nationally through a common dialog and understanding of student success.

Definition
Reading is "the process of simultaneously extracting and constructing meaning through interaction and involvement with written language" (Snow et al., 2002). (From www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB8024/index1.html)

Framing Language
To paraphrase Phaedrus, texts do not explain, nor answer questions about, themselves. They must be located, approached, decoded, comprehended, analyzed, interpreted, and discussed, especially complex academic texts used in college and university classrooms for purposes of learning. Historically, college professors have not considered the teaching of reading necessary other than as a "basic skill" in which students may require "remediation." They have assumed that students come with the ability to read and have placed responsibility for its absence on teachers in elementary and secondary schools.

This absence of reading instruction in higher education must, can, and will change, and this rubric marks a direction for this change. Why the change? Even the strongest, most experienced readers making the transition from high school to college have not learned what they need to know and do to make sense of texts in the context of professional and academic scholarship--to say nothing of those readers who are either not as strong or as experienced. Also, readers mature and develop their repertoire of reading performances naturally during the undergraduate years and beyond as a consequence of meeting textual challenges. This rubric provides some initial steps toward finding ways to measure undergraduate students' progress along the continuum. Our intention in creating this rubric is to support and promote the teaching of undergraduates as readers to take on increasingly higher levels of concerns with texts and to read as one of "those who comprehend." Readers, as they move beyond their undergraduate experiences, should be motivated to approach texts and respond to them within a reflexive level of curiosity and the ability to apply aspects of the texts they approach to a variety of aspects in their lives. This rubric provides the framework for evaluating both students' developing relationship to texts and their relative success in the range of texts their coursework introduces them to. It is likely that users of this rubric will detect that the cell boundaries are permeable, and the criteria of the rubric are, to a degree, intertwined.

Glossary
The definitions that follow were developed to clarify terms and concepts used in this rubric only.

• Analysis: The process of recognizing and using features of a text to build a more advanced understanding of the meaning of a text. Might include evaluation of genre, language, tone, stated purpose, explicit or implicit logic (including flaws of reasoning), and historical context as they contribute to the meaning of a text.
• Comprehension: The extent to which a reader "gets" the text, both literally and figuratively. Accustomed and sophisticated readers will have moved from being able to "get" the meaning of the text provides to being able to "get" the implications of the text, the questions it raises, and the counterarguments one might suggest in response to it. A helpful and accessible discussion of 'comprehension' is found in Chapter 2 of the RAND report, Reading for Understanding: www.rand.org/pubs/monograph_reports/MR1465/MR1465.ch2.pdf.
• Epistemological stance: The knowledge framework a reader develops in a specific discipline as s/he moves through an academic major (e.g., essays, textbook chapters, literary works, journal articles, lab reports, grant proposals, lectures, blogs, webpages, or literature reviews, for example). The depth and breadth of this knowledge provides the foundation for independent and self-regulated responses to the range of texts in any discipline or field that students will encounter.
• Genre: A particular kind of "text" defined by a set of disciplinary conventions or agreements learned through participation in academic discourse. Genre governs what texts can be about, how they are structured, what to expect from them, what can be done with them, how to use them.
• Interpretation: Determining or constraining the meaning of a text or part of text by a particular way based on textual and contextual information.
• Metacognition: This is not a word that appears explicitly anywhere in the rubric, but it is implicit in a number of the rubric definitions. Metacognition, (a term typically attributed to the cognitive psychologist J.H. Flavell) applied to reading refers to the awareness, deliberateness, and reflectiveness defining the activities and strategies that readers must control in order to work their ways effectively through different sorts of texts, from lab reports to sonnets, from math texts to historical narratives, or from grant applications to graphic novels, for example. Metacognition refers here as well to an accomplished reader's ability to consider the ethos reflected in any such text, to know that one is present and should be considered in any use, or response to a text.
• Related to text: The set of expectations and actions a reader brings to a particular text or set of texts.
• Searches intentionally for relationships: An active and highly-aware quality of thinking closely related to inquiry and research.
• Tags texts apart: Discerns the level of importance or abstraction of textual elements and sees big and small pieces as parts of the whole meaning (compare to Analysis above).
• Tense: The definitions that follow were developed to clarify terms and concepts used in this rubric only.

VALUE RUBRIC
for more information, please contact value@acad.org
**Reading VALUE Rubric**

*for more information, please contact value@aacu.org*

**Definition**

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Evaluators are encouraged to assign a zero to any work sample or collection of work that does not meet benchmark (cell one) level performance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Comprehension</strong></th>
<th><strong>Capstone</strong> 4</th>
<th><strong>Milestones</strong> 2</th>
<th><strong>Benchmark</strong> 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recognizes possible implications of the text for contexts, perspectives, or issues beyond the assigned task within the classroom or beyond the author’s explicit message (e.g., might recognize broader issues at play, or might pose challenges to the author’s message and presentation).</td>
<td>Uses the text, general background knowledge, and/or specific knowledge of the author’s context to draw more complex inferences about the author’s message and attitude.</td>
<td>Evaluates how textual features (e.g., sentence and paragraph structure or tone) contribute to the author’s message; draws basic inferences about context and purpose of text.</td>
<td>Apprehends vocabulary appropriately to paraphrase or summarize the information the text communicates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Genres</strong></td>
<td>Uses ability to identify texts within and across genres, monitoring and adjusting reading strategies and expectations based on generic nuances of particular texts.</td>
<td>Articulates distinctions among genres and their characteristic conventions.</td>
<td>Reflects on reading experiences across a variety of genres, reading both with and against the grain experimentally and intentionally.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relationship to Text</strong></td>
<td><strong>Making meanings with texts in their contexts</strong></td>
<td>Evaluates texts for scholarly significance and relevance within and across the various disciplines, evaluating them according to their contributions and consequences.</td>
<td>Uses texts in the context of scholarship to develop a foundation of disciplinary knowledge and to raise and explore important questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Analysis</strong></td>
<td><strong>Interacting with texts in parts and as wholes</strong></td>
<td>Evaluates strategies for relating ideas, text structure, or other textual features in order to build knowledge or insight within and across texts and disciplines.</td>
<td>Identifies relations among ideas, text structure, or other textual features, to evaluate how they support an advanced understanding of the text as a whole.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interpretation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Making sense with texts as blueprints for meaning</strong></td>
<td>Provides evidence not only that the text can be read by using an appropriate developmental lens but that s/he can also engage in reading as part of a continuing dialogue within and beyond the discipline(s) or a community of readers.</td>
<td>Articulates an understanding of the multiple ways of reading and the range of interpretive strategies particular to one's discipline(s) or in a given community of readers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reader’s Voice</strong></td>
<td><strong>Participating in academic discourse about texts</strong></td>
<td>Discusses texts with an independent intellectual and ethical disposition so as to further or maintain disciplinary conversations.</td>
<td>Elaborates on the texts (through interpretation or questioning) so as to deepen or enhance an ongoing discussion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>