How To Create a Text Set

1 Determine an objective for the entire text set (can be related to a topic, standard, anchor text, etc.).

Sample Objectives

Students will understand the events and public attitudes leading to the internment of Japanese-Americans during WWII.

Students will identify the elements of persuasive writing and evaluate an argument based on the author's reasoning and evidence.

Students will examine how global warming is affecting different regions and populations around the world.

2 Select and sequence texts to build critical content/background knowledge or create meaningful connections to the anchor text.

Tips for Selecting Texts:
- Choose rich and engaging texts that allow students build knowledge or practice skills related to the **learning objective.**
- Include texts that provide **different perspectives** or unfamiliar views on a topic.
- **Vary** text type (informational vs. literary), length, and format.
- Consider **text complexity**.

Tips for Sequencing Texts:
- Order texts in a way that encourages students to make **meaningful connections** between them or the anchor text.
- **Scaffold skills** -- e.g., For a set related to character analysis, begin with a text that includes more examples of direct characterization before introducing texts with indirect characterization.
- Start with texts that provide **background knowledge** about a topic or issue.

3 Add instruction (notes and questions) to each text -- provide opportunities for formative assessment, feedback, and scaffolding.

Set a "mini-objective" for each text to guide instruction creation. (Sample below)

Overarching Objective: Students will identify the elements of persuasive writing and evaluate an argument based on the author's reasoning and evidence.

Text 1: Identify elements of persuasive writing; evaluate author's credibility
Text 2: Examine the structure of an argument; evaluate the evidence presented
Texts 3 & 4: Examine counter-arguments; compare and contrast perspectives and evidence

Check out the [Knowledge Sets on Actively Learn](#)! These sets include sequenced texts with embedded instruction and have teaching guides that outline learning objectives and extension activities.