

Directions

1. Randomly select three (3) sample passages and count out exactly 100 words each, starting with the beginning of a sentence. Count proper nouns, initializations, and numerals.

A word is defined as a group of symbols with a space on either side; thus, <u>Joe</u>, <u>IRA</u>, <u>1945</u>, and <u>&</u> are each one word.

- 2. Count the number of sentences in the hundred words, estimating length of the fraction of the last sentence to the nearest one-tenth.
- 3. Count the total number of syllables in the 100-word passage. If you don't have a hand counter available, an easy way is to simply put a mark above every syllable, then count the number of marks.

A syllable is defined as a phonetic syllable. Generally, there are as many syllables as vowel sounds. For example, <u>stopped</u> is one syllable and <u>wanted</u> is two syllables. When counting syllables for numerals and initializations, count one syllable for numerals and initializations, count one syllable for numerals and initializations, count one syllable for syllables, <u>IRA</u> is three syllables, and <u>&</u> is one syllable.

- 4. If a great deal of variability is found in syllable count basing t he average on more samples is desirable.
- 5. Enter graph with average sentence length and average number of syllables; plot dot where the two lines intersect. Area where dot is plotted will give you the approximate grade level.