**Depth and Complexity Overview**

Content for gifted learners is differentiated through the elements of depth, complexity, and pacing. If students are given the opportunity to explore their content with more depth and complexity, their products and performances should reflect this learning.

The Texas Performance Standards Project is one tool to help students create advanced products.

**Depth**—Exploration of content within a discipline. Teachers *and* students dig deeper into the curriculum. The deeper students go with a subject, the broader it gets.

Depth allows exploration of the discipline by going past facts and concepts into generalizations, principles, theories, and laws.

Students investigate the layers of experience within a discipline utilizing the following elements of depth:

* Know and use the language of the discipline.
* Use details to elaborate in the discipline.
* Look for patterns in the discipline.
* Look for trends in the discipline (forces that shape a body of knowledge).
* Identify the unanswered questions of the discipline.
* Identify and explain the rules of how information/events are organized in the discipline
* Be sensitive to the ethical considerations in the problem/issue/discipline.
* Look at big ideas that can be supported by the evidence from a body of knowledge.

**Complexity**—Examining a big idea, issue/problem, or topic for greater breadth of understanding.

Elements of Complexity

* Look at ideas/information over time—past, present, and future.
* Look at ideas/information from different points of view.
* Look for connections among/between ideas/information/disciplines.