The biggest question about plain legal language is how we can constitute its defintions. Should plain legal language be communications that the reader can understand the first time they read it? If so, how can writers secure a consistent taxonomy in the writing and classification of plain legal language? It seems almost impossible to measure and guarantee a consistent and reliable definition of the editorial process of plain language. short, the fundamental problem is that there is no one systematic method for conveying the law in plain and effective legal language.

Nevertheless, there is a substantial governmental at a federal level to communicate the law in plain language. The federal government has taken steps to enforce plain language and passed the Plain Language Act of 2010, which said that government is obligated to use plain language when communicating the law to the general public. However, what defines successful plain legal language? Plain writing simply cannot be defined in a measurable and finite way because the reading comprehension is extremely subjective and open to interpretation.

This is not, however, to say that we cannot get an idea of what differentiates plain legal language from ineffective legal language. The MIT Human Dynamic Lab’s Legal Physics research team hypothesizes that by crowdsourcing legal language, drafters can collect data on the effectiveness of their language. Drafters can provide their drafts on a platform, ask a set of multiple choice questions about readers’ interpretations, and use this data to rate competing plain language drafts of the same statutes or laws. This method will provide a post-draft rating system to help drafters choose from competing drafts.

What’s more, the integration of law and computer language code can help accelerate the rate at which competing drafts of plain legal language can be rated. If all legal language drafts can also be marked up in code, a computer algorithm can create and deliver rating forms to readers on an online crowdsourcing platform more rapidly and at a more significant scale.