

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) What You Need to Know!

Thursday, March 31, 2016



What Do I Bring?

- ✓ A blue or black pen
- ✓ A sharpened pencil
- ✓ An eraser



Reading		Writing	
Reading selections:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• information paragraph (225 to 250 words)• news report (225 to 250 words)• dialogue (225 to 250 words)• real-life narrative (550 to 600 words)• graphic text (fewer than 150 words)	Types of writing tasks and questions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• long-writing tasks<ul style="list-style-type: none">– news report (one page)– series of paragraphs expressing an opinion (two pages)• two short-writing tasks (six lines each)• multiple-choice questions<ul style="list-style-type: none">– developing a main idea with supporting details– organization of ideas– language conventions
Types of questions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• multiple-choice• open-response (six lines each)	<small>(EQAO Planning and Preparation Guide, 2015)</small>	

Responding to Readings (What are the questions asking?)

- **Provide evidence** from the selection - **GO** back to the reading for examples.
- Based on the selection and your own ideas - **INCLUDE examples** from the reading selection **AND** your own ideas.
- **Summarize** the reading by identifying the main idea and

Reading Tips...

- Read the questions **before** you read the reading selections.
- Underline key points while you read.
- **Always** refer back to the reading when formulating your answers - do not simply rely on memory.

Writing a News Report

- Focus **ONLY** on the **headline and picture** provided on the OSST.
- Begin by identifying **who, what, when and where**; then **explain why and how it happened**.
- **Use third person** - you are the journalist writing a news paper article.
- You must **NOT give your opinion** as a journalist - focus on the facts.

Writing a Series of Paragraphs Expressing an Opinion

- Write at least **THREE** paragraphs - indent at the beginning of each paragraph. Consider skipping a line between paragraphs.
- **INTRODUCTION: Give your opinion** at the beginning of your response.
- **3 BODY paragraphs:** Provide at least three details/examples to support your opinion.
- **CONCLUSION: Restate your opinion** and briefly summarize your points.
- **Use third person**

Example:

Question: Do you think that students should be required to complete community service hours as part of their graduation requirement?

Response: Students should be required to complete community service hours as part of their graduation requirement.

Short Writing Tasks

- Examples: What is your favourite sport? Who do you admire?
- Begin with a topic sentence that answers the question.
- Give three reasons to support your selection and use transition words to connect the reasons. *One reason is... Another reason is... The last reason is...*
- Use a closing sentence to end your paragraph.

Remember...you have six lines (do not skip lines) and fill the lines with relevant details/reasons to support your ideas. Write your responses in complete sentences.

Writing Tips...

- Use the rough notes sections to jot down a few of your points **BEFORE** you begin your answer.
- Fill the lines with relevant details to support your points
- always aim for at least three convincing supporting details