OSSLT Preparation

Informational Text
Graphic Text
Agenda

• **Part A: Informational Text**
  - The structure of an informational text
  - OSSLT information paragraph format
  - Reading strategies
  - Strategies for answering multiple-choice questions
  - Strategies for answering open-response questions

• **Part B: Graphic Text**
  - The structure of a graphic text
  - OSSLT graphic text format
  - Strategies for reading a graphic text

• **Practice questions**
Informational Text

• It is a type of text that informs the reader about the natural or social world.

• In informational texts, a variety of structures is present to help the reader to find information, such as:
  o Table of contents;
  o Bold or italicized text;
  o Embedded definitions or glossaries for specialized vocabularies;
  o Illustrations such as photos, graphs, and charts

• Examples:
  o Cause-and-effect books;
  o “All about” books;
  o Readings from a subject-specific textbook;
  o Reference texts

Informational Text on the OSSLT

- Information paragraph
- 225 – 250 words in length
- Followed by
  - Multiple choice questions
  - Open-response question (6 lines)
Polar bear survival in the wild may be in danger because of climate change. Climate change is lengthening the ice-free period in southwestern Hudson Bay and thus the polar bear fast. During the Arctic spring, the bears build up their fat by eating seals that they hunt from the ice. Warming temperatures are reducing the ice. For the estimated 2000 polar bears in the region, this has serious implications. The sea ice melts completely each summer, stranding the marine creatures on land and away from their normal diet of seal meat. Although many polar bears do consume lots of blueberries and black crowberries on land, the bears lose almost a kilogram of weight a day for at least four months and as long as eight months in the case of pregnant females. Canadian wildlife biologists have been trying for decades to determine whether polar bears can better endure their months of fasting on land by eating berries. Biologists in the past have tried using measurements from muscle and blood, without success. More recently, researchers applied masks to 300 tranquilized bears and gathered samples of their breath. They found no significant differences between bears that had recently eaten berries (detectable from tell-tale stains on teeth and backsides) and those that hadn’t. Can a berry diet reduce the polar bears’ dependence on their fat reserves? The answer is no. Unlike that of the brown bear, polar bear metabolism cannot extract sufficient energy from berries alone.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Before Reading</th>
<th>During Reading</th>
<th>After Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Look at:</td>
<td>- Title</td>
<td>- Read in chunks!</td>
<td>- Read questions carefully, and highlight/underline key words.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Subheading</td>
<td>- Identify:</td>
<td>- Types of questions:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Pictures</td>
<td>- Who, What, When, Where, Why, How</td>
<td>- Describe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scan for words</td>
<td>- Read:</td>
<td>- If you don’t understand a word, look for a root word inside the larger word. Also, read the entire sentence and search for clues to its meaning.</td>
<td>- Summarize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>that stand out</td>
<td>- Opening sentence</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Explain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Concluding sentence</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Find the main idea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Defining a vocabulary term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Conventions (e.g., quotations, italicized words)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Organization or style of the piece</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strategies for Answering Multiple-Choice Questions

- Read the question carefully!!! Do NOT read the choices yet!
- Re-read the question! Do NOT read the choices!
- Identify the key words in the question.
- Try to answer the question without reading the choices.
- Read all the choices.
  - How do they compare to the answer that you came up?
  - Cross out those choices that you know are wrong.
  - Look at the remaining answers and make a choice.
- Make sure you answer all multiple-choice questions. If you have no clue what the correct answer is, make an educated guess!
State a main idea of this selection and provide one specific detail from the selection that supports it.

6 lines!
Use them all!
Don’t go over!

Rough Notes
Use the space below for rough notes. Nothing you write in this space will be scored.
Use this space to write your ideas before answering the question!
And Remember: FAME!

Fill in all lines
- but do NOT go over…this will = a Zero mark

Answer all stuff
- in complete sentences…guess if you have to!

Mark up the pages
– highlight and identify the 5WH in all reading selections

can't Edit enough!

(Credits: Candice Lande)
Graphic Text

• Graphic texts include printed texts and a variety of visual features, such as:
  o Photos;
  o Diagrams;
  o Captions;
  o Graphs;
  o Charts;
  o Tables;
  o Maps;
  o Etc.
Graphic Text on the OSSLT

• Fewer than 150 words;
• Ideas and information are presented with the help of graphic features;
• Usually followed by multiple-choice questions.
Title (it tells what the graphic is about.)

Illustrations
Pay attention to text that supports/describes it

Headings

Arrows
Show Direction
Pay attention to the title first!

Look at the headings, subheadings, and illustrations.

Answer: what is the general topic of this text?

Identify the headings/subheadings and illustrations that are most important.

How do the illustrations connect to each other?

How is the printed information supported by the illustrations?
Strategies

• Skim!
  o What is the text all about?
  o Don’t read the details yet! Don’t read every word!

• Scan!
  o How is the text organized?
  o Read all the headings.
  o Pay attention to the illustrations.

• Carefully read each multiple-choice question, identifying the key words
  o Re-read the graphic text to find the information

• Also, follow the strategies used to answer multiple-choice questions.
It’s Your Turn!

• Log onto to Google using your *pdsb.net* account.

• Use the following link to access a Google form:

  https://goo.gl/forms/NdlKzOe4aL9IOq23

• Make sure to enter your full name and student number

• Answer all questions! There are 4 sections:
  o 2 for Information Paragraph
  o 2 for Graphic Text

• You will receive your score (for the multiple choice questions) once you submit all your answers!

• Good luck!
Credits:

-Dana Sheahan – Principal, Fletcher’s Meadow SS
-Siobohn Catalano, Fletcher’s Meadow SS
-Ailynne Sobec, Fletcher’s Meadow SS