

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