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

Reading selections:
- 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 questions:
- multiple-choice
- open-response (six lines each)

Writing

Types of writing tasks and questions:
- long-writing tasks
  - news report (one page)
  - series of paragraphs expressing an opinion (two pages)
- two short-writing tasks (six lines each)
- multiple-choice questions
  - developing a main idea with supporting details
  - organization of ideas
  - language conventions

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.

(EQAO Planning and Preparation Guide. 2015)
Writing a News Report

- Focus ONLY on the headline and picture provided on the OSSLT.
- 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

Adapted from the TCDSB Literacy Team