



Getting Ready for the OSSLT

Reading Information Texts: Some helpful tips

An *information text* is written to communicate information about specific situations, topics, subjects, methods, or processes. Subject specific vocabulary, layout, and organizational patterns are used to ensure clarity and ease of understanding.

An information text can be one of the following:

- **News Report:** presents information in the form of a news story.
- **Information paragraph:** presents ideas and information on a topic.

Tips for reading an information text:

- Underline or highlight important information and ideas while reading.
- During reading, think about the text and ask questions about it.
- Visualize; try to “see” the information.
- If the meaning of a word is unclear, look for a root word that may be familiar inside the larger word.
- If the meaning of the word is still unclear, read to the end of the sentence and look for clues to help understand its meaning. Read the sentences before and after the sentence to find further meaning of the text.
- If a long sentence seems confusing or unclear, re-read it and try to put it in other words.
- If having trouble understanding the text, stop and re-read until the meaning becomes clear.
- When reading a news report, identify the ‘who, what, where, when, why/how’ and important quotations while reading.
- When reading an information paragraph, try to distinguish between the main ideas and supporting examples/details while reading. Also, take note of important people who are mentioned or quoted in the paragraph.