



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

Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Time:



### What Do I Bring?

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



Reading Tasks*	Writing Tasks*
<p>You will be reading the following selections:</p> <p>a. information texts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• paragraph</li> <li>• news report</li> </ul> <p>b. narrative texts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• dialogue</li> <li>• real-life narrative</li> </ul> <p>c. graphic text</p> <p>Based on these readings, you will need to answer open-response questions and multiple-choice questions.</p>	<p>You will be writing the following:</p> <p>a. long-writing tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• news report (one page)</li> <li>• series of paragraphs expressing an opinion (two pages)</li> </ul> <p>b. two short-writing task (6 lines each)</p> <p>c. multiple-choice questions:</p> <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>

\*taken from *Planning and Preparation Guide, OSSLT, March 2015)*

### 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. Use your ideas and provide examples from the selection.
- Summarize the reading by identifying the main idea and supporting details – MAIN IDEA: *What is the author trying to prove?* SUPPORTING DETAILS: *How does the author prove his/her point? What are the examples/reasons?*

#### 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 OSSLT.
- ✓ Begin by identifying when (yesterday), who, what, 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.

Review your use of capital letters and quotation marks.

“This is great,” John said.

Example:

Yesterday, three students from St. Success in Toronto rescued a cat that was stuck in a tree.

As one witness said, “These students are heroes. I am so grateful that they were walking by and that they stopped to help.”

## 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.
- ✓ **BODY:** Provide at least three details/examples to support your opinion.
- ✓ **CONCLUSION:** Restate your opinion and briefly summarize your points.

Remember your reader is an adult. Do **NOT** use slang or short forms. Reread and correct your work before you submit.

Example:

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

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

## Writing an Information Paragraph

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

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).