Writing a News Report for the OSSLT
The Task

- On the literacy test, you will be given a headline and an image;
- From there, you are responsible for brainstorming the details and information;
- You will need to write a full news report.
Learning Goals / Purpose of the Presentation

- I can identify the difference between a news report and a news cast.
- I can make up facts and information to answer the questions who, what, where, when, why, and how in a news report based on a headline and picture.
- I can organize my information into the form of a news report and use language appropriate to the form.
- I can use direct and indirect quotes to develop my report.
Basic rules in developing a Newspaper Report

- The rest of the paragraphs will fill in the important details and will be NO LONGER THAN 2-3 sentences each.
- Must be written in third person (absolutely no personal language, except in quotes)
- Must include a minimum of two quotes, either indirect or direct (word for word what somebody connected to the story said)
Rules Continued

- Think of the event as just having happened; we would then consistently use the past tense;

- Make sure you focus on a single event and a single moment in time to avoid your report sounding more like a story;

- Make sure when referring to people in your report, you call them by their first and last name the first time, and last name thereafter....NEVER by the first name (too informal)

- If the person has a title, use it to add authority. For example, Mr. Chen, principal of Bishop Marrocco Thomas Merton said....
What??

Federal Agents Raid Gun Shop, Find Weapons

We hate math,’ say 4 in 10 — a majority of Americans

Mississippi’s literacy program shows improvement

more awesome pictures at THEMETAPICTURE.COM
How you will be scored? Let's take a look at the booklet...
What Score would you give?

Using what you now know about the OSSLT scoring rubrics, for each of the following news reports, decide what grade you would apply.
Overnight snowfall on
December 27th 2020.

Most residents of the town are unable to leave their property because of the two feet of snow holding their vehicles hostage!

Joe, seen clearing snow from his driveway, stated, "We have not seen such a bad storm since 1999!"
How’d you do?

- If you said “below”, you are correct
- This person received a score of 40

There is a clear and consistent focus on an event (stuck in their homes due to heavy overnight snowfall). There are sufficient supporting details. Some are specific (hundreds, two feet, Joe, 1999, December 30th). Other details are vague (most residents, few days). The organization is mechanical.
On Tuesday March 30th, a snowstorm hit the southern coast of Ontario, shutting down many of the work areas. The storm that started from Newhawr handled at 6:30 AM reached the region opening down many regions, including the region. Weather official, name, says: "This can be unpredictable but we weren't expecting this huge amount this late in the year." The storm closed down schools, banks, and even universities.

"The problem is that we weren't even warned about it so, we were very unprepared. We actually didn't have our equipment handy when we first heard about it," says name, one of the region's experts in snow management.

The storm caused many cars to get stuck in the road for as much as 2 hours. "The depth of the snow is the most shocking snow disaster we have ever had since 1938," says old Jack, one of the senior citizens.

Due to this disaster, many plans, meetings, and lessons were delayed.

Students were ordered not to even attempt going to school after one student fell into a "room-wide" hole and broke her leg.

"It was very scary as I was trying to break free from the whole and my body and feel buried in snow," she says. The mayor of city declared this day "zero day" since nothing could get done. "I guess this is an wake up call that we need to always be prepared for snow," he said. After all Canadian weather has always had a remarkable history.
How’d you do?

- If you gave this student a score of 60, you are correct

There is a clear and consistent focus on an event (snowstorm). Sufficient specific supporting details (southern coast of Ontario, Vancouver, 24 km/h, York Region, Mary Kate, 170 cm, 1978, 50 cm) are thoughtfully chosen to develop the news report. Organization is coherent. Quotations are effectively placed. Final statement is an effective conclusion, connecting to the ideas in the response.
Conventions
30, 40 or below (explain)

- For each of the following, you are not focusing on the quality of the news report
- You are focusing only on such things as spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc.
this one. People are not even trying to get to work. The snow is 10 feet high so no one is going anywhere for a long time. Some can not even open their door to get out. It's been 3 days and the snow is still higher than ever. Just last night the snow started again but not as bad. We are trying to do something about it but no one wants to get out there to the snow.
How’d you do?

- If you scored this student “below”, you are correct
- They received a code 20

Errors distract from communication. Reading rhythm is interrupted by omissions (comma) and erratic use of capitals, by run-on sentences, by errors in usage (“in about two day,” “it’s been 3 day”) by improper use of apostrophes (want’s) and by omitted words.
Conventions

Storm Shuts Down Region

January 18th there has
in a major snow storm

[Image of a snowy landscape]
How’d you do?

- If you said “below, you are correct
- This was scored as a 10

This response provides insufficient evidence.
Conventions

Storm Shuts Down Region

December 15, 2001 in ________________
city ________________

Ontario, Canada

the region was shut
down due to weather.
The weather was so terrible that the power
was out, automobiles were not
able to run and all heating
was off.

On this day, schools were shut down, work place
and every bus, car and train were not able to
run. The region has been shut down for
three days and help is on it's way. The
plow trucks are not able to run through the
city as well due to the roads being
such a mess.

The city had no warning of this storm,
it had happened overnight with shock.
Some people are stuck in houses and other
in work buildings. The luck for this city of having
help should be soon, but as for now there is
nothing you can do but wait. Good luck.
How’d you do?

If you scored this student with a 30, you are correct.

Effective use of conventions is evident in the written work (e.g., effective use of quotations and semicolon). Errors in spelling (do, automobile, it’s) do not distract.
Conventions

Storm Shuts Down Region

A record breaking snow storm shuts down the region for hours, and left hundreds of people without electricity for up to 6 hours!

Early Monday morning had a huge amount of snow drop down on them from the great snowfall! Many people had different thoughts on the storm. When we asked them later that night, Mary-Lou a third grader from school said, “I love the snow! It’s so much fun to play in, and we get a day off school!” On the other hand, when we asked Mary-Lou’s mother what she thought of the storm, she gave a very different answer! “I don’t mind the snow, but getting this much of it is just too much!” she said.

As we drove around some of the towns in the region we saw many people shoveling and cleaning up to four feet of snow off their drive way. I’m sure everyone will be happy to see spring coming up soon!
How’d you do?

- If you gave this student a perfect score of 40, you are correct.

Control of conventions is evident through the use of punctuation. Some spelling errors ("diffrent," "shoveling,""comming,"”) and lack of commas ("Mary-Lou a third grader from . . .") do not undermine the overall control of conventions.
Let’s put it all together

- Using your own words, let’s come up with a list of what a successful news report will look like.
- Our list should include information from the beginning of the note (rules), as well as from the rubrics on topic development and conventions.
Success Criteria for a News Report

- Beginning paragraph (lead) will answer 5w and how
- 4-6 paragraphs
- 2-3 sentences
- Very few/minor spelling, grammar mistakes (5 or less)
- Stay focussed on one idea (connected to pic and headline)
- Many supporting details (specific. Numbers, names etc)
- At least 2 quotes (direct and indirect)
- Use length provided as a guide
- Recap with conclusion
- Make it “flowy”, use good transition words
- Title or first and last name
- Tag the person with their title (Mr. Chen, principal)
Lead Paragraph

Although there are no rules for what order you put the lead in, the following formula ALWAYS works:

→ When + Where + Who + What = first sentence
→ Why + How = second sentence

Example:
Students Fundraise for a Good Cause

Who?

What?

Where?

When?

Why?

How?
Your Turn

- For the following headlines and images, brainstorm the 5ws and 1h

- Write the lead paragraph for each of the following anywhere in your notebook...
Samples

School purchases cell phone signal blocker
Sample 2

School board to change school schedule