

## What is the Purpose of the OSSLT?

The purpose is to determine whether or not students have acquired the literacy (reading and writing) skills that students are expected to have learned by the end of Grade 9, as outlined in The Ontario Curriculum.

The OSSLT identifies students who have demonstrated the required literacy skills as well as those who have not demonstrated these skills and need additional instruction and practice.

Successful completion of the OSSLT is one of the 32 requirements for the OSSD.



### Reading

Informational (225 - 250 words)

Paragraph  
News report

Narrative

Dialogue (225 - 250 words)  
Real-life Narrative (550 - 600 words)

Graphic (100 - 150 words)

### Writing

Long Writing Tasks

News report (one page)  
Series of paragraphs expressing an opinion (two pages)

Short Writing Tasks (6 lines each)

Developing a main idea with supporting details

Multiple Choice questions

Organization of ideas  
Sentence and paragraph structure  
Language conventions: effective use of capitalization and punctuation, spelling grammar

#### UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Student Success Department  
500 Victoria Road N, Guelph ON N1E 6K2  
(519) 822 - 4420



Education Quality and  
Accountability Office



**Yes! You  
can pass  
the  
Literacy  
Test!**

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

For more resources, go to

[www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com)

For extra help, ask about the  
*Pass the Test Program* starting  
soon at your school.

***Helpful Tips for  
Taking the OSSLT***

## Strategies for Long Response Writing: News Report



Think of the 5 “w” questions to get started.

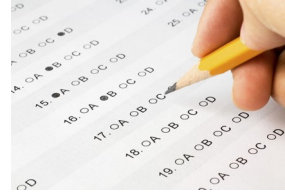
- Look closely at the picture and headline; then think of an event that relates.
- Make up events base on the questions: Who? What?

Where? When? and Why?

- Your audience is the readers of a newspaper.
- Write about events as they would have occurred in the past.
- Pretend you are writing for a newspaper (not for a radio or TV station).
- Do not write an advertisement, for example, as that is not the form required.
- Write your report using third person (he / she / it / they / them / their).

## Strategies for Multiple Choice

- Read and re-read the question carefully.
- Underline or highlight important words in the question, such as “best”, or “closest in meaning”.
- Read the four answers and rule out any answers that are obviously incorrect.
- If necessary, re-read the relevant parts of the selection to choose the best or the most correct answer.
- Record the answer in the student answer booklet as described in the test instructions.

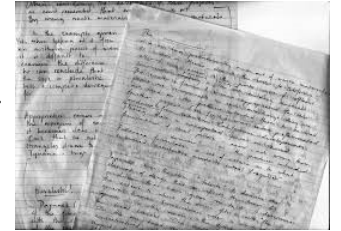


## Strategies for Open Response Reading (Short Answer)

- Read and re-read the question carefully.
- Make connections between the ideas and information in the reading selection and your experience.
- Answer the question using specific and relevant details and information from the reading selection.
- Keep your answer within the lines provided.
- Re-read your response and correct any errors you notice.

## Strategies for Long Response Writing: Opinion Paragraphs

- Read the topic sentence and decide what position you will take in your response.
- Clearly state your opinion at the beginning or end of your response.
- Write at least three paragraphs including an introduction, a development and a conclusion.
- Support your opinion with reasons and relevant examples or facts.
- Make sure the divisions between paragraphs are clear.



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