



## St. Mary's HS - LITERACY TEST (OSSLT) STUDY SHEET – 2016-2017

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### General Tips for Writing Paragraphs:

- INDENT EACH PARAGRAPH
- INCLUDE A TOPIC SENTENCE THAT OUTLINES THE MAIN IDEA
- PROVIDE SUPPORTING DETAILS (I THINK "THIS" BECAUSE OF "THAT.")
- WRITE A CONCLUDING SENTENCE
- BE MINDFUL OF THE WORD COUNT / CHARACTER COUNT

### Short Answer Questions:

- INTRO SENTENCE WITH TOPIC/MAIN IDEA
- BODY SENTENCES THAT IDENTIFY 2-3 CONNECTIONS USING DETAILS / PROOF
- CONCLUDING SENTENCE

### Multiple Choice Questions:

- UNDERLINE OR CIRCLE KEY WORDS IN BOTH THE QUESTION STEM AND THE CHOICES
- USE PROCESS OF ELIMINATION FOR EVERY QUESTION  
(SOME ANSWERS ARE OBVIOUSLY WRONG, SOME ARE PARTIALLY WRONG, SOME ARE TRUE STATEMENTS BUT HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE QUESTION)
- ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS – DO NOT LEAVE ANY BLANKS (GUESS)

### Newspaper Report:

- BRAINSTORM, USE THE ROUGH NOTES SECTION TO ORGANIZE IDEAS
- THE REPORT MUST BE ABOUT THE PICTURE AND HEADLINE GIVEN
- PARAGRAPH ONE – 1 TO 2 SENTENCES DEALING WITH WHO? WHAT? WHERE? AND WHEN?
- PARAGRAPH TWO – DEALS WITH WHY? AND HOW? INCLUDE A "QUOTATION."
- PARAGRAPH THREE – 1 TO 2 SENTENCES TO FINISH, POSSIBLY SECOND "QUOTATION."
- ALWAYS WRITE IN PAST TENSE, 3rd PERSON (NO "I" STATEMENTS)

### Opinion Essay:

- BRAINSTORM, USE THE ROUGH NOTES SECTION TO ORGANIZE IDEAS
- PARAGRAPH ONE – CLEARLY STATE YOUR OPINION (AGREE OR DISAGREE) AND OUTLINE 3 SUPPORTS
- PARAGRAPH TWO, THREE & FOUR – GIVE LOGICAL REASONS & EXAMPLES TO SUPPORT YOUR OPINION
- PARAGRAPH FIVE – RESTATE POSITION IN DIFFERENT WORDS AND SUMMARIZE MAIN IDEAS
- WRITE IN 1st PERSON

### Grammar and Spelling:

- DO YOUR BEST!!!
- PROOFREAD AND ENSURE THAT WHOEVER READS YOUR WORK WILL UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN  
(PERFECTION IS NOT THE GOAL...CLARITY IS)

### Top 10 Terms to Know for the OSSLT:

- COMPARE, DEFINE, DESCRIBE, DETERMINE, EXPLAIN, IDENTIFY, JUSTIFY, LIST, PREDICT, SUMMARIZE

### After School Prep for the OSSLT:

- EVERY MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY, 3:15PM - 4:30PM, ROOM 204, STARTS FEB. 17TH, 2016

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**OSSLT DATES: Thurs., October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and Thurs., March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**For more information and resources:** [http://stmary.wcdsb.ca/student\\_services/literacy\\_test\\_prep.html](http://stmary.wcdsb.ca/student_services/literacy_test_prep.html)