

# TIPS for SUCCESS - Literacy Test - Gr. 10 OSSLT - EQAO

---

## QUESTION TYPES:

- **OPEN RESPONSE SHORT ANSWER:** e.g. what is your favourite junk food?
  - **SHORT WRITING TASKS:** based on the reading selection(s) provided
  - **MULTIPLE CHOICE:** based on the reading selection(s) and writing conventions
  - **LONGER WRITING TASKS:** 1. Newspaper Report, 2. Series of Paragraphs Stating an Opinion
- 

## OPEN RESPONSE SHORT ANSWER:

- Think of **links** between the topic and your knowledge & personal experience.
- Answer the question using **specific details** and **relevant information** from your **personal knowledge** and **experiences**.

## SHORT WRITING TASKS:

- **Read and reread** the question carefully. Identify the **main idea**.
- **Make connections** between the ideas and information in the reading selection and your knowledge/experience.
- Answer the question using **specific** and **relevant details** and **information** from the **reading selection** and/or your **experience**, depending on what the question asks.
- **Answer in full paragraph form** (indent, topic sentence, supporting details, concluding sentence).
- Ensure that your **topic sentence** clearly states the **main idea**.
- Include 1 to 2 clear and specific **supporting points** or examples—this answers “**why?**”
- Ensure that your **concluding sentence** succinctly wraps up your argument.
- Your answer should be **grammatically correct** (sentence structure, spelling, punctuation).
- Your answer should be **6 lines long** (approximately 5 sentences); you must stay on the lines or within the allotted space for your answer.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE:

- **Survey the test** completely and **read directions** carefully.
- **Underline or circle key words** in both the question stem and the choices.  
(Writing on the test sheet will help your performance tremendously!)
- **Always read all of the choices**, even when the first or second choice looks correct.
- Think of the multiple choice options as a series of **true/ false** statements.
- **Cover the options, read the stem, and try to answer.**
- If the question has one or more correct answers, **use the process of elimination**.  
Cross off all choices which are clearly false and then re-read the choices which remain “open.”
- **Answer every question.** Making an educated guess is acceptable.
- **Read and re-read very slowly.** Make sure you have not left any blanks.

### LONGER WRITING TASKS:

#### 1. Newspaper Report:

- Task: write a news report based on a picture and headline provided. Make up facts and information to answer the questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why? and How? and write a one-page report on the event. Your audience is an adult reader of a newspaper.
- Pretend you are writing for a **newspaper**, *not* for a radio or television station.
- **Brainstorm!** Look at the given **photo** closely and jot down details in the Rough Notes section to **answer: Who? What? Where? When? Why? & How?** (make up info/facts to answer these questions).
- Your **opening paragraph** needs to be 1-2 sentences long and **answer: Who? What? Where? and When?**
- **The body paragraph(s)** can answer the **Why?** and **How?**
- The **conclusion** should also be short (1-2 sentences), and could **answer** the question: **What will happen next?**
- Use a **direct quote** in your report.  
(e.g. During the heatwave, the snowman cried out, "It is so hot outside, I'm literally melting!")
- Always **write** in the **3rd person** (he, she, it, they, etc.). Do **not** use the word "I."

#### 2. Series of Paragraphs Stating an Opinion (on a topic given to you):

- **5 paragraphs** are needed: an **introduction** paragraph, **3 body** paragraphs, and a **conclusion** paragraph
- **State your opinion** in the **1<sup>st</sup> paragraph**— make it clear that you agree **OR** disagree (**NOT both**).
- **Brainstorm!** Use the Rough Notes section to organize your ideas:  
list reasons and examples to support your opinion. Ask yourself: *Why do I agree or disagree?*
- **Using sentences like:**  
*"I agree with the statement because..." OR "I disagree with the statement because..."*  
will help you **state your position clearly** in your **opening paragraph**.
- In your **3 body paragraphs** that **support your opinion**, give **reasons** and relevant **examples** or **facts**.
- Write a **conclusion** where you **restate** your **position** and **summarise** your **main ideas**.
- You should write approximately two pages (try to use up all of the 2 pages).
- Your audience is an adult who is interested in your opinion.
- Make sure the **divisions between paragraphs** are **clear** (indent! and/or leave a blank line between paragraphs).