

# Writing Traits

## OSSLT Opinion Essay

When writing an Opinion Essay for the OSSLT, be certain your essay meets these criteria.

### Ideas

- The response directly answers the question. Pick one side and explain clearly why your opinion is correct.
- Unlike other essays, the details you use to explain why your opinion is correct do not have to be accurate. Your writing skills are being evaluated, not your knowledge of the topic. You might use an **anecdote**, an **example**, a **comparison**, or a **series of details** to explain why your answer is correct. You may make-up facts to support your argument, but add details that are reasonable and serious.

### Organization

- First paragraph: an introduction that directly answers the questions and lists three reasons why your answer is correct.
- Three body paragraphs: each body paragraph explains one of your reasons in more detail.
- Final paragraph: a conclusion that summarizes your argument.

### Voice

- The voice of an opinion essay should be strong, decisive, convincing and serious.
- Opinion essays are written in the present tense.
- Opinion essays are written in the third person.

### Sentence Fluency:

- To support the organization of your ideas, follow an **answer, prove, explain** structure for the sentences in your body paragraphs.
- Use connecting phrases such as: "This is true because..."; "For this reason I believe..."; or "Obviously, no one could doubt that...".
- Ensure that your sentences are connected, and not a series of bullet points.

### Conventions:

- The EQAO expects you to check your work for errors to ensure that it can be easily read. It does not have to be perfect. Use words that you can confidently spell correctly and straightforward sentence structures that are easily read.

# The Writing Traits of A News Report

When writing a News Report for the OSSLT, be certain your writing meets these criteria.

## Ideas

- The response is related to the picture and the headline. The facts and details must be imagined based on connections you can make to the picture and headline. The details you make up should be reasonable, but do not have to be accurate or true.
- Be aware of the differences between a reporter and a promoter. Write a news report, not an advertisement for what is happening in the photograph.
- Include imagined statements from people pictured in the provided image. Imagine you had interviewed them immediately after the photograph was taken about the event described in the headline.

## Organization

- The paragraphs are short (just one or two sentences long).
- The first paragraph is called the “lead” and describes what the news report is about by answering the questions: when, who, what and where.
- The body paragraphs provide further details about who, what, where, how and why.

## Voice

- News reports are written in a formal, serious voice.
- News reports are written in the past tense.
- News reports are written in the third person.

## Word Choice:

- News reporters try to use clear descriptive language. The goal is to be accurate and avoid confusion.

## Sentence Fluency:

- In order to ensure clarity, news reports usually have short, one or two sentence long paragraphs. Each paragraph provides additional details about the event.

## Conventions:

- The EQAO expects you to check your work for errors to ensure that it can be easily read. It does not have to be perfect. Use words that you can confidently spell correctly and straightforward sentence structures that are easily read.
- Use quotation marks correctly to identify the quotes you’ve invented.

7 Drawing names and made up quotations on the people in the photo helps you to plan your OSSLT news report by...

- A. helping you to develop ideas to report on in your narrative.
- B. helping you to connect the headline to the photo.
- C. helping you to include quotes in your body paragraphs.
- D. all of the above.

## OSSLT Short Answer Reading Comprehension Rubric

Score	Criteria
10/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Response indicates minimal reading comprehension</li><li>● Response provides minimal or irrelevant ideas and information from the reading selection</li></ul> <p>The response answers the question but with irrelevant supporting details <b>OR</b> the response retells the selection without answering the question.</p>
20/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Response indicates some reading comprehension</li><li>● Response provides vague ideas and information from the reading selection; it may include irrelevant ideas and information from the reading selection</li></ul> <p>The response provides vague support from the selection to explain the answer to the question <b>OR</b> the response requires does not explain the connection between the answer and the supporting detail from the selection.</p>
30/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Response indicates considerable reading comprehension</li><li>● Response provides accurate, specific and relevant ideas and information from the reading selection; it may include irrelevant ideas and information from the reading selection.</li></ul>

7 The most common reason students earn a score of 2/3 instead of 3/3 on OSSLT short answer questions is...

- A. spelling mistakes.
- B. writing too much (beyond the six lines provided).
- C. writing in the first person.
- D. not providing enough detail in their answer.

## OSSLT Multiple Choice Tips Quiz

- 1 Why is it important to read the whole selection before answering a question?
  - A. Some questions are designed to catch you if you've just skimmed through the selection.
  - B. Some questions require you to demonstrate your understanding of the whole selection.
  - C. Some answers include key words from the selection but aren't the correct answer.
  - D. all of the above.
  
- 2 A useful tip when answering multiple choice questions is...
  - E. Skim and scan through the selection looking for key words from the question.
  - F. Read the paragraphs in backwards order and think about how each paragraph is connected.
  - G. Think of how you would answer the question before looking at the answers offered by the multiple choice. Then look for an answer that matches your thinking.
  - K. All of the above.
  
- 3 When answering multiple choice questions on the OSSLT it's important to...
  - A. Not guess, wrong answers count against you. Don't make guesses.
  - B. Skip questions that don't have a correct answer.
  - C. Never leave a blank. Eliminate wrong answers and make your best guess from the remaining choices.
  - D. Not change an answer on the multiple choice answer sheet. Be careful to choose correctly the first time.
  
- 4 When answering multiple choice questions on the OSSLT it's important to remember that...
  - E. You can earn  $\frac{1}{2}$  marks by choosing the two answers you think might be correct.
  - F. You can be patient because only the written portion of the OSSLT is timed.
  - G. There may be one or more answers that are true statements, but aren't the correct answer to the question.
  - K. You may only use pencil when completing the multiple choice bubble sheet.
  
- 5 In an OSSLT multiple choice question the word "selection" is used to indicate...
  - A. the whole article or graphic that the question refers to.
  - B. a portion of the text the question refers to that's shown in a box.
  - C. a quotation that the question is referring to.
  - D. the numbered paragraph the question refers to.