

OSSLT Writing Tasks: Your Guide to Success on the Grade 10 Literacy Test



The tasks and questions on the OSSLT require you to demonstrate your understandings and skills about WRITING:

- developing a main idea with sufficient supporting details
- organizing information and ideas in a coherent manner
- using conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation) in a manner that does prevent a reader from understanding what you want to say.

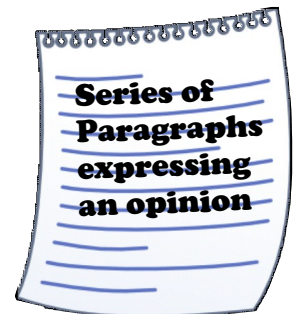
Your writing skills will be tested in three ways on the OSSLT:

- ◆ **Two long writing tasks** (news report, series of paragraphs expressing an opinion)
- ◆ **Short writing tasks** (six lines for you to write the response using your own knowledge and experience.)
- ◆ **Multiple choice questions** (show your knowledge about writing skills)

The Two Long Writing Tasks

1. A SERIES OF PARAGRAPHS EXPRESSING AN OPINION

You will be given a topic that is current and familiar to teenagers. You will state your opinion about that topic, and you'll write a minimum of three paragraphs that support your opinion, giving your reasons, examples, facts and details to convince a reader that your opinion is reasonable. You will be given two pages for this piece of writing.



2. A NEWS REPORT

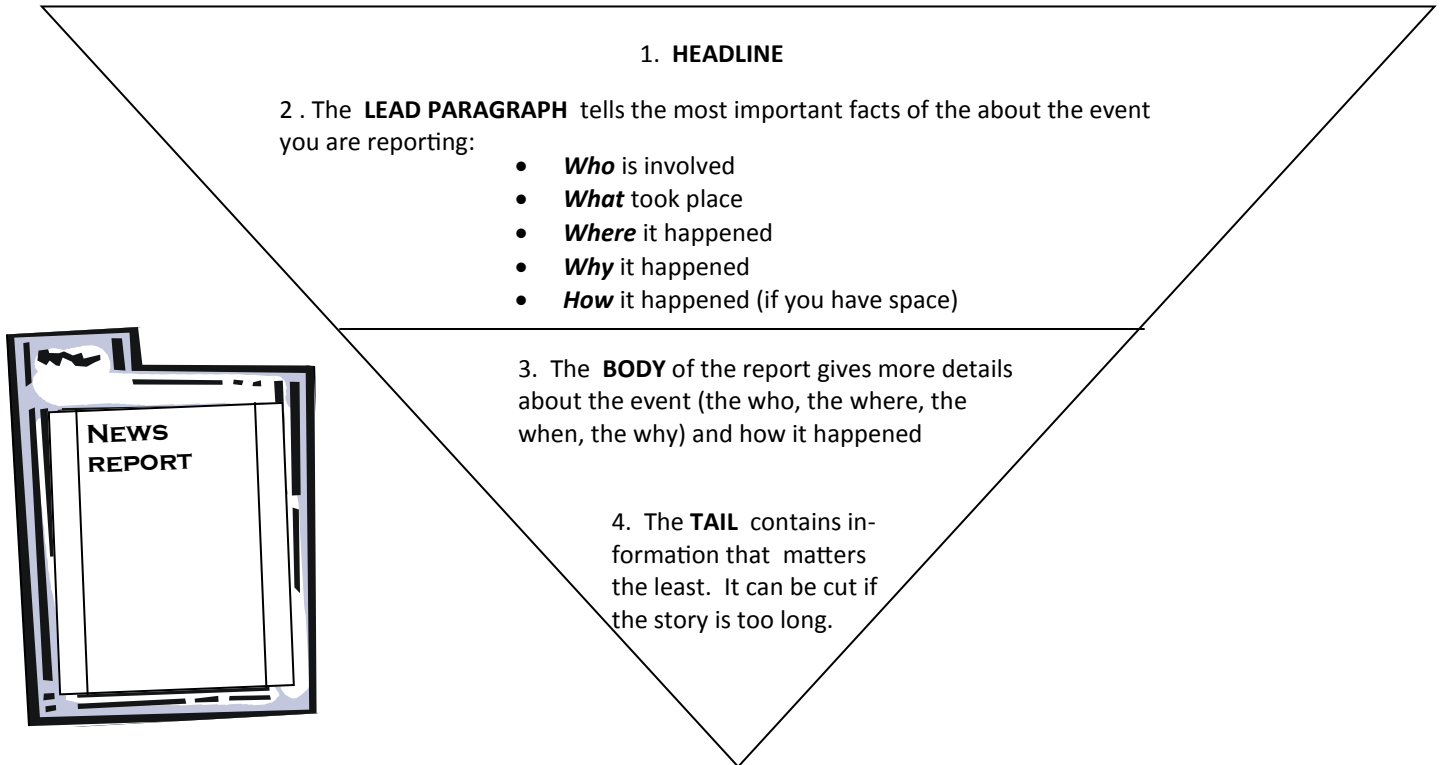
You will be asked to write a news report based on a picture and headline you'll be given. A news report usually tells the reader who, what, where, when, why and how about the event.

You must:

- make a link between the headline and the photograph. Think: what event could I write about using the photo and headline that could become a newspaper report?
- You will be given one lined page for your writing piece.

WRITING THE NEWS REPORT

A news report tells the reader about an event that has occurred. It tells the reader who, what, where, when, why and how. **It is structured like this:**



DO:

- make a link between the headline and the photograph. *Think:* what event could I write about using the photo and headline, that would make a good news story?
- make sure all of your details relate to the picture and headline
- make sure that you have included enough information and facts related to the event
- that you write in “third person” (don’t use “I” or “you”) and use a “reportorial” tone
- use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation

DON'T:

- x don't write an advertisement, a television or radio report
- x don't write about an event that will take place in the future. It should be an event that has happened already.

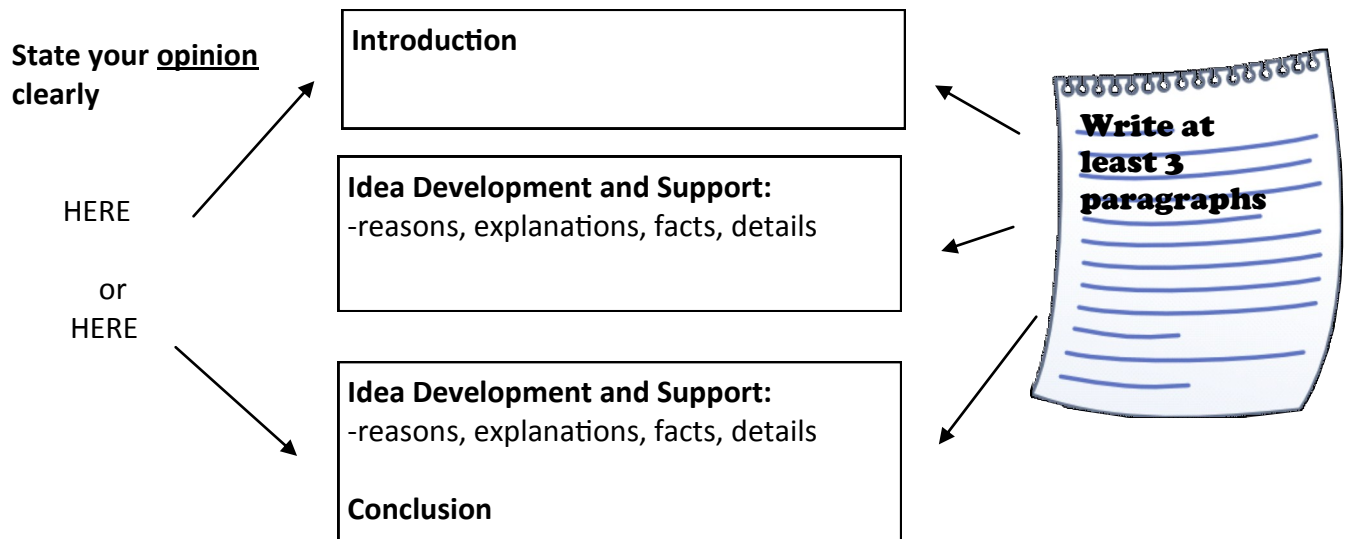


WRITING THE SERIES OF PARAGRAPHS EXPRESSING AN OPINION

You will be given a topic that is current and will be familiar to teenagers.

The series of paragraphs expressing an opinion is a longer piece of writing in which you state your opinion about that topic. In a minimum of three paragraphs, you will **state your opinion** and **support your opinion** by giving *reasons*, *examples*, *facts* and *details* that will persuade a reader that your opinion is reasonable.

The structure of the series of paragraphs looks like this:



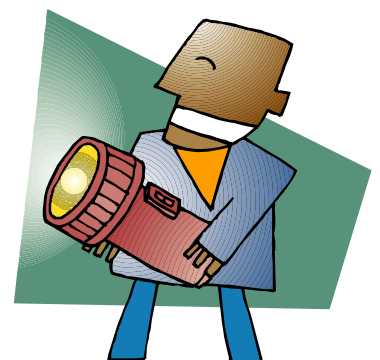
Do:

- **State your opinion clearly** at either the beginning or the end of the writing piece.
- Write at least **three paragraphs**. You must have an **introduction**, followed by paragraph(s) that develop your ideas, and **a conclusion**.
- Remember: each paragraph is a block of sentences in your writing piece. **Always indent the first sentence of every new paragraph.**
- Support your opinion (show that it is reasonable and believable): **provide enough reasons, examples, facts or details.**
- You will be given two pages for your writing. Use both pages.
- Take time to make rough notes, or use a visual/graphic organizer to organize your main ideas, facts and details
- Correct your grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Don't forget to indent your paragraphs

Don't forget to "map out" your ideas first

Don't forget to state your opinion at either the beginning or the end





Score Codes for Writing on the OSSLT

Short Writing Tasks

Skill: Topic Development

Code	Reason for code
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You left it blank—nothing written It was illegible You were off-topic
10	Your response is not developed enough; it has irrelevant ideas and information; not enough ideas/information
20	Your response is developed with vague ideas and information; it may contain some irrelevant ideas and information
30	Your response is developed with clear, specific and relevant ideas and information

Skill: Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation)

Code	Reason for Code
10	The errors you've made distract the reader
20	The errors you've made do not distract the reader

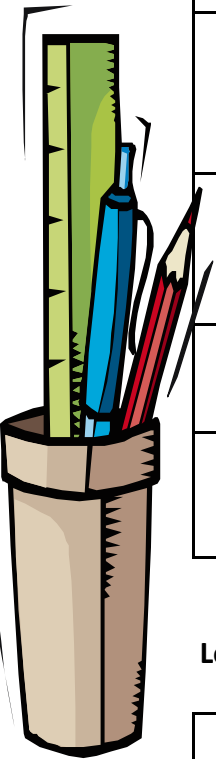
Long Writing Tasks: News Report Skills: topic development and organization

Code	Reason for code
0	You have left it blank (have written nothing), or your writing is illegible, or what you have written has no relationship to the headline or photo
10	The response is related to headline and/or photo but : -It is not a news report., or -It is a news report, it identifies an event, but gives no supporting details, or provides details that are not related to the event OR The response is a news report related to the headline and/or photo. It identifies an event, but provides no supporting details, or provides details that are unrelated to the event. -There is no evidence of organization.
20	The response is a news report and is related to headline and/or photo but : -you haven't clearly focused on the event, or you haven't focused all the time -you don't have enough supporting details, or you repeat the same ones -There isn't much evidence of organization
30	The response is a news report and is related to headline and/or photo , but -although you've clearly focused on the event, you've provided few or vague supporting details , or you haven't always clearly connected your details to the event. -some organization is evident, but not enough to keep the reader from being distracted and puzzled.
40	The response is a news report and is related to headline and/or photo . You keep a clear and consistent focus on the event. You have enough supporting details, but: -only some details are specific, and -the organization of ideas is mechanical
50	The response is a news report and is related to the headline and photo. You keep a clear and consistent focus on an event. You have provided sufficient specific supporting details to develop the news report. The organization is logical.
60	The response is a news report and is related to the headline and photo. You keep a clear and consistent focus on the event. There are sufficient specific supporting details, which are thoughtfully chosen to develop the news report. The organization is coherent demonstrating a thoughtful progression of ideas.

Longer Writing Task: Series of Paragraphs Expressing an Opinion

Skills: topic development and organization

Code	Reason for Code
0	-You left it blank (you didn't write anything) -Your response is illegible, or your response doesn't relate to the writing prompt -Your response is off-topic
10	-Your response is related to the prompt but does not express an opinion, OR -Your response expresses an opinion, but it has no supporting details, or it gives details that don't relate to your opinion. There is no evidence of organization.
20	The response is related to the prompt, but: -only part of your response expresses and supports your opinion, OR -you express and support your opinion, but the opinion is unclear or inconsistent. -You have provided too few details, or repeat them There is not much evidence of organization.
30	The response is related to the prompt and expresses a clear opinion, but: -the supporting details you provided are vague, or too few, or -you haven't always connected the details to your opinion clearly. Some organization is evident, but not enough to keep the reader from being distracted and puzzled.
40	The response is related to the prompt. Your opinion is clear and consistent, and you developed it with sufficient supporting details, but: -only some details are specific. The organization of ideas is mechanical.
50	The response is related to the prompt. Your opinion is clear and developed consistently. You have included sufficient specific supporting details. The organization is logical.
60	The response is related to the prompt. Your opinion is clear and developed consistently with thoughtfully chosen and sufficient details. The organization is coherent, demonstrating a thoughtful progression of ideas.



Longer Writing: Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar, Punctuation)

Code	Reason for the Code
10	You haven't written enough for your writing to be scored, OR Errors you've made make it very hard for a reader to understand what you have written.
20	Errors distract the reader
30	Errors do not distract the reader
40	Control of spelling, grammar and punctuation is evident in written work.