**OSSLT Prep at Lakeshore**

Below is some information and some links to help you learn about and practice for the literacy test. Please check back here periodically for more information, tips, tricks and updates.

**What is the OSSLT?**

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test is a standardized test of writing and reading comprehension that is written by students across Ontario, ideally in the grade 10 year. All eligible students will write the test at Lakeshore CI on March 31, 2016 during the school day. The test is broken into two sections, each consisting of writing tasks as well as reading passages followed by questions. A passing grade is 70% or 300 points. You must pass the OSSLT or take the OLC to receive your high school diploma.

**What can I do to prepare for the OSSLT?**

Throughout grade 9 and 10 English classes, as well as other core subjects, you have been practicing for the OSSLT without even knowing it, but everything you do to improve your literacy will help to aim you toward success.

1. Everyday, make it a habit to read for at least fifteen minutes. Find something that interests you – a book, a magazine, a website. The best reading to improve literacy is something that makes you think, something you really enjoy, and something that you can talk about with others. Here are some websites that might interest you.
2. Use the practice booklets that were handed out to familiarize yourself with the format of the OSSLT and the types of questions you can expect.
3. Write. Write letters or keep a journal. Write short stories to entertain your friends. You can even get your work published online! Follow this link to Scholastic.com’s writing workshop, where you can develop skills for writing in a specific genre and publish work online: [Write It](http://teacher.scholastic.com/writeit/index.htm)
4. Pay attention to the feedback your teacher gives you, either verbally or on tests and essays.
5. Use the TEL format you have been taught to make sure you are properly explaining your thoughts on paper. Remember, TEL stands for Topic, Explanation (or evidence) and Link. Support your topic sentence with evidence, and then clearly explain how the evidence supports the topic.

**What’s on the OSSLT?**

You might recognize some of these tasks from lessons and assignments given to you in English class in grades 9 and 10.

To be successful at the OSSLT, students should be able to:

* Read a passage and answer questions that are directly stated in the reading,
* Read a passage and answer questions that are not directly stated,
* Determine the main idea of a reading,
* Answer multiple choice questions regarding directly or indirectly stated information in a reading piece,
* Use common knowledge to relate reading to a concept in their lives or in the world,
* Infer the meaning of unknown words based on the context,
* Compose a short piece that clearly states an opinion, supporting evidence and the reasons why the evidence supports the opinion,
* Compose a longer writing piece that uses facts to support a thesis, giving reasons why the evidence supports the main thesis,
* Compose a news report based on a photo and headline that is provided.

There are a few different tasks that students must complete in order to demonstrate the success criteria above. Please click on the links below to watch videos that can help you understand how to best answer each type of question.

**Video links to help you understand and prepare**

General tips for the OSSLT

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZliJBb8ba5Q

**Watch videos about the News Report:**

Heart Lake Literacy Committee – 4 minutes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_NmVtnEEA8>

Inverted Pyramid: The structure of a news report

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZvgbUoDkYU>

Writing a news report

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_C1OJ5efbQ>

Have more time? This one is in-depth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpD8gAAtdQ8>

Strategies for reading the question and coming up with the story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNJCSnntvDE>

**Watch videos about the short writing task (using TEL):**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZ7H7Ju2naw>

**Watch videos about Essay writing for the OSSLT:**

Essay writing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGaVXkyE_xk>

How to write an opinion essay by Cawthra Park SS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yaT1T9ObyLY>

**Watch videos about Responding to a Reading:**

Reading response:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1zQmxBxxDk

**Watch videos about the multiple choice questions on the OSSLT:**

Multiple Choice and short answer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSV5nKxZ01k>

More Resources to come…

**What will we be doing at school to prepare?**

Don’t worry! We will have an assembly for students writing the OSSLT this year and talk all about the test and how we will prepare you in school.

In the meantime, if you have any concerns about writing the OSSLT, please speak with Ms. Wallace, Mrs. Janisse, Ms. Lau or your guidance counsellor.

Happy Reading!!