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| Northview Heights OSSLT – Be ready! | C:\Users\owner\Documents\Documents\ACL Literacy\Nview logo.jpg |

Please read this handout before going to this morning’s assembly so that you’re more prepared when you go see it.

**The Basics: The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)**

**Who?** All Grade 10 and ESL E students, and previously eligible students who haven’t passed.

**What?** It’s a provincial literacy (reading and writing) test that you need to take to graduate.

**Where?** The classroom you’re assigned to. There’ll be a list in the window of the main office.

**When?** Thursday March 26, 2015 at 8:40 AM… Be on time!! There’s no extra time for late-comers.

**Why?** You need to get your literacy requirement to graduate.

**How?** Read the rest of this handout for lots of tips about how to be prepared.

**On the day of the test…**

* Bring: pencils, pens, a good eraser, a highlighter, a watch

X Don’t bring: Wite-out, bags, coats and personal electronics. If you are found to have any personal electronics on you (phone, iPod, electronic dictionary etc), your test will not be marked.

* Make sure you’ve had a good night’s sleep and have eaten a good breakfast

**What’s on the test?**

**Here’s a quick breakdown of every kind of task on the OSSLT:**

* Multiple Choice: Reading and Grammar (About 40 Questions, only 8 grammar): **48%** of test
* Long Writing: News Report + Essay (2 Questions): **25%**
* Reading: Short Answer Open Response and Summary (4 Questions, only 1 summary): **15%**
* Short Writing: Paragraphs (2 Questions): **12%**

This is why you REALLY need to practice doing multiple choice questions (in class, online, and/or using previous year’s tests), in addition to practicing the other skills.

1. **For READING, you need to be able to:**

* Understand direct information (“The weather was very cold.”)
* Understand indirect information (“The girl shivered in her thin coat, as she waited for the bus.”)
* Understand connections (in this story, it suggests that the extreme cold may have led to the unsafe decision she made later)

**What Do I Read?**

**Below are the kinds of texts you’ll read, and the questions for each.**

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| **Informational Texts**   * 1. Graphic Text - 6 Multiple Choice (MC) * 2. Paragraph - 5 MC, 1 Summary * 3. News Report - 5 MC, 1 Open Response (OR) | **Narrative \*longer\***   * 1. Dialogue (6 MC, 2 OR) * 2. Real-life Narrative (9 MC) |

For WRITING, you need to be able to:

* Develop a main idea by providing enough supporting details.
* Organize your idea into a clear and logical order.
* Use correct spelling and grammar—it does NOT have to be perfect. It just has to be good enough that someone reading it can understand what you mean.

What Do I Write?

* **Short writing tasks (paragraphs)**
* **Two long writing tasks**
* Series of Paragraphs (Opinion Essay)
* News Report

60% content (topic development)

40% conventions (grammar, spelling, organization)



**Where can I get extra help?**

1. Northview’s OSSLT Preparation Page

<http://www.northviewheights.ca/eqao---ontario-secondary-school-literacy-test.html>

* Lots of links, previous tests to practice with and even a great video!

1. Afterschool Literacy Test preparation

* Tuesdays and Wednesdays until the OSSLT, at 3:15 in Room 118
* Opportunities to practice a variety of reading and writing skills