

5 Ways to Pass the Literacy Test

1. Words Matter! Make sure you have a clear understanding of the question **BEFORE** you begin!

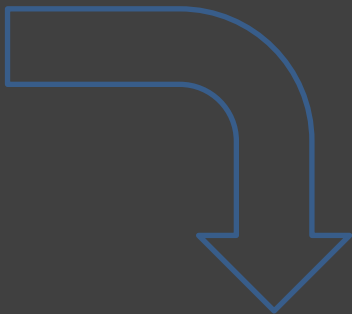
Most students who failed the Mock Test did not notice *key words* in the question. For example,

“Suggest one improvement that could be made to your school building or its grounds. Use specific details to explain why it would be an improvement.”

Many people talked about shorter classes, food, holidays...which are ALL off topic or did not explain **WHY** it would be an improvement.

TIP: Try underlining, highlighting or circling key words after you have read it a SECOND time!!

More ...



2. Multiple choice questions can be tricky!

ALL people who struggled did quite poorly on the Multiple Choice.

Multiple choice questions are used to test reading comprehension and to show understanding of writing skills like knowledge of grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure.

TIPS:

- Try to come up with the answer in your head BEFORE looking at the provided answers, this way the choices won't trick you.
- Read the question very carefully...it may not mean what you think it means the first time!
- When answering multiple choice from the WRITING SECTION, be aware that they will probably ask about PUNCTUATION, CAPITALIZATION, OR SENTENCE ORGANIZATION

1e. What are they looking for in this question? (hint: rhymes with *fluctuation*)

3. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

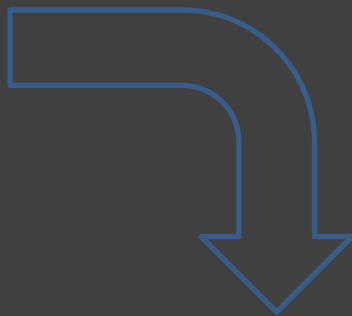
- A. I was waiting Omar said. "In the cold!"
- B. "Wasn't it hot outside" Oliver responded?
- C. "I was e-mailing," Sara exclaimed, "for three hours!"
- D. "I went to a scary movie," Maria said "At two o'clock."

3. The News Report is a NEWSPAPER article.

This is NOT a TV or radio report, an announcement or advertisement.

- You must write an *objective and factual* newspaper article that is connected to the photo and headline that is provided.
- Make up several realistic facts for each of the 5 W's
- Be sure to use short paragraphs and include quotes from people that were involved
- Write in the past tense and in the third person (Don't use I, We, or You) Ex. The students voted on Friday at lunch....

More....



4. Find the Evidence! Find and use details directly from the Reading selections that you read!

- When they ask for the *Main Idea* of a paragraph....you will find it in the *Topic Sentence* (usually the first sentence!)
- When they ask for a supporting detail, find one that directly connects to the main idea
- When they provide multiple choice options, find those lines in the reading, then decide which one answers the QUESTION!
- For example, if they ask which event happened first, they mean during the story, not the one they list first in the story!!
- If you don't understand a word in a question, read the passage and see if there are clues in it that may help

More....



5. Writing a series of paragraphs on expressing your opinion!

- Treat this like a mini-essay.
- Open by clearly stating your opinion (don't sit on the fence) and briefly mention your main reasons.
- Then, identify the reasons for your opinion and support each of them with logical arguments, facts, points.
- Finish with a concluding statement.

See this example below→

Writing a Series of Paragraphs

1. Task: Write a **minimum** of **three paragraphs** expressing an **opinion** on the topic below. Develop your main idea with supporting details (proof, facts, examples, etc.).

Purpose and

Audience: an adult who is interested in your opinion

Length: The lined space provided for your written work indicates the approximate length of the writing expected.

Topic: **Do teenagers place too much importance on what they wear?**

Brainstorm first !!

- Students place too much importance on clothes because....
- you can't judge a book by its cover..ie wealth, status, etc.
- there are more important uses for money than wasting them on designer clothes
- people who judge others by clothing are ignorant...can lead to bullying
- Therefore, placing too much importance on clothes is a waste of time, money, and may lead to bigger problems.