



# St. David OSSLT Study Sheet

## Helpful Tips for the Writing Skills required on the OSSLT:

### Writing an Open Response / Short Answer

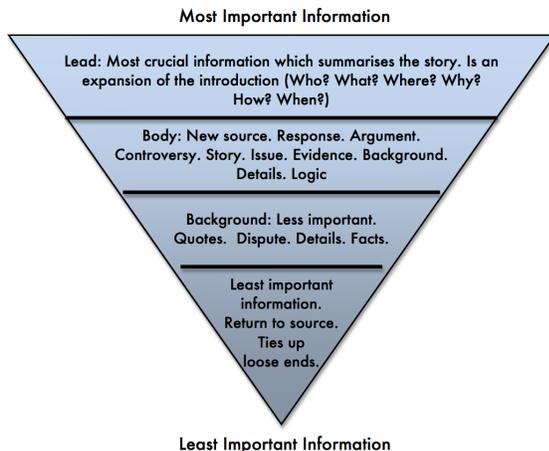
- Directly restate words from the question in your first sentence
- Support ideas with clear and relevant details /examples
- Stay on topic
- Include knowledge and / or personal experience (if required)
- Write in complete sentences (use/fill all 6 lines that are provided))

### Answering Multiple Choice Questions

- Read the questions first, before reading the actual paragraph/text so your brain knows what you are looking for
- Be sure to read the information paragraph at least twice (once for understanding, and then a second time to find the answers)
- Narrow down your choices. Usually, there is at least one answer that you can eliminate because it doesn't fit.
- Look at the words carefully and look for clues. The words often match-up directly with what is stated in the reading
- Look over your answers once you have finished

### Writing a News Report

- Identify a single event that directly relates to the picture AND the headline
- Provide details that answer the questions who, what, when, where, why and how, and ensure those details are sufficient so the reader understands what happened
- Divide your details logically into paragraphs that are clearly indented
- Write in the past tense and in the third person (Don't use I, We, or You)
- Include direct and indirect quotes from participants in the story
- Write in complete sentences and check for correct spelling, grammar and punctuation
- Remain objective and use an unbiased tone.
- This is NOT a TV or radio report, an announcement or advertisement
- Use the Inverted Pyramid Model to organize your report



### Writing an Opinion Piece

- Clearly state your opinion in the introductory paragraph (pick a side; don't sit on the fence), and provide 3 reasons to support it
- Answer using 5 paragraphs (a clear introduction, 3 body paragraphs that align with your reasons, and a conclusion)
- Provide specific examples that support each of your reasons
- Write in complete sentences and use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation (proofread your work when you finish writing)
- Be sure to fill the space! Write a response that is long enough and detailed enough to fill the lines provided

### Opinion Piece Organizer

State your opinion and 3 reasons to support it

Paragraph for Reason # 1

Paragraph for Reason # 2

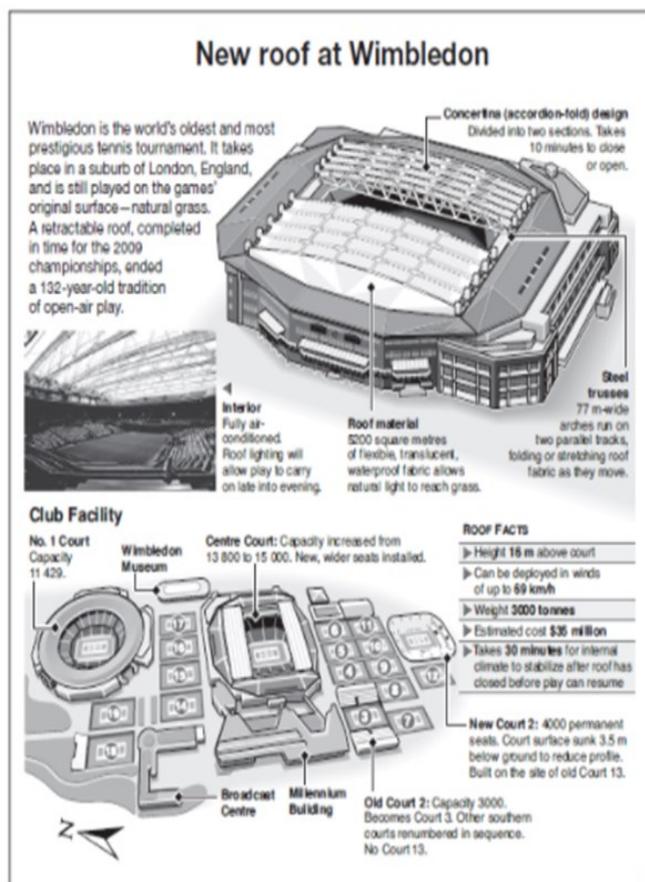
Paragraph for Reason # 3

Restate your opinion

# Helpful Tips for the Reading Skills required on the OSSLT:

## Graphic Text

- Examine the titles, headings, captions and images. Start with the title. The title tells you what the graphic is about. The captions may also use words and phrases from the text to show how the graphic is related to the information in the written text (e.g., Figure 1.6)
- Read all the labels and examine how they are related to the graphic. Each label has a purpose. The most important labels may be in capital letters, bold type, or a larger font
- Follow the arrows and lines. They may be used to show movement or direction, or connect to the things they name
- Some graphical texts have a legend or a key to explain the meaning of specific symbols and colours
- Read the text near the picture/graph to find an explanation of the information in the graphic
- The questions will ask you to interpret the charts, graphs, maps, etc. Make sure you read the key words in the questions, and find those key words within titles, labels, etc.



## Narrative/Dialogue

- Read the excerpt at least twice
- Try to understand the story it is trying to tell and make connections
- Examine the vocabulary and identify any unfamiliar words
- Try to understand what the words mean within the context of the sentence
- Use specific evidence from the text to support your answer. Use direct quotes when possible

## Reading a News Article

- Read the article at least twice
- Think about the main idea and the 5 W's
- Look at how it is organized (inverted pyramid model)
- Examine key words in the questions, and make sure that you are answering it based on direct information in the article
- Be prepared to make your own conclusions when you can't find the direct answer
- Try underlining, highlighting or circling key words after you have read it to help identify important information

## Information Paragraph

- Read the question and think about what the question is asking
- Identify and underline the key words in the question you will use in your answer
- Identify the main idea and specific supporting details from the text
- Think about how it is organized (ex. chronological, cause & effect, statement & explanation, compare & contrast, general to specific)

For more information or practice material, please visit :

<https://stdavid.wcdsb.ca/student-services/student-success/osslt-literacy-test-preparation/>