

What You Need To Know About Writing the OSSLT **Opinion Essay**

Requirements for an OSSLT Opinion Essay:

1. The question will ask you for your opinion about an issue relevant to teenagers.
2. The report must be written in the style of an OSSLT Opinion Essay:
 - a. The instructions will ask for a minimum of three paragraphs. You should plan to write **FIVE** paragraphs: an introduction paragraph, three body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph.
 - b. The introduction paragraph explains your answer to the question. Pick **ONE** side. Identify three reasons why your answer to the question is correct.
 - c. Each of the three body paragraphs explains one of your reasons why your answer to the question is correct. You might use an anecdote, an example, a comparison, or a series of details to explain why your answer is correct.
 - d. Your opinion must be based on reasonable facts, but you can make up the details you write about. Your writing skills are being evaluated, not your knowledge of the topic.
 - e. The fifth (final) paragraph concludes your essay by restating your opinion and summarizing why your answer is correct.
 - f. The response is written in the first person with a formal, decisive, strong voice.
3. The essay should fill the space provided (two pages).

Writing Traits of an OSSLT Opinion Essay

When writing an Opinion Essay for the OSSLT, be certain your essay has these traits.

Ideas

- The response directly answers the question. Pick one side and explain clearly why your opinion is correct.
- Unlike other essays, the details you use to explain why your opinion is correct do not have to be accurate. Your writing skills are being evaluated, not your knowledge of the topic. You might use an **anecdote**, an **example**, a **comparison**, or a **series of details** to explain why your answer is correct. You may make-up facts to support your argument, but add details that are reasonable and serious.

Organization

- First paragraph: an introduction that directly answers the questions and lists three reasons why your answer is correct.
- Three body paragraphs: each body paragraph explains one of your reasons in more detail.
- Final paragraph: a conclusion that summarizes your argument.

Voice

- The voice of an opinion essay should be strong, decisive, determined and serious.
- Opinion essays are written in the present tense.
- Opinion essays are written in the first person (“I believe that...”).

Word Choice:

- Essay writers try to use clear descriptive language. The goal is to be accurate and avoid confusion.

Sentence Fluency:

- To support the organization of your ideas, follow a point, proof, comment series of sentences in your body paragraphs. Use connecting phrases such as: “This is true because...”; “For this reason I believe...”; or “Obviously, no one could doubt that...”.
- Ensure that your sentences are connected, and not a series of bullet points.

Conventions:

- The EQAO expects you to check your work for errors to ensure that it can be easily read. It does not have to be perfect. Use words that you can confidently spell correctly and straightforward sentence structures that are easily read.

Quick Opinions 1

1) Brainstorm at least 3 reasons to support **one** side of the following opinion statements

Is grade 9 the most important year of high school?	
Yes	No
Should students be allowed to drive to school??	
Yes	No
Should stores be closed on Sundays?	
Yes	No

2) Select one of the questions above. Write the introduction paragraph of an answer to the question. Use the appropriate format for an OSSLT opinion essay.

Quick Opinions 2

1) Brainstorm at least 3 reasons to support **one** side of the following opinion statements

Should the school year be twelve months long?	
Yes	No
Should cars have controls that limit their top speed based on who is driving?	
Yes	No
Should music be a mandatory subject in school?	
Yes	No

2) Select one of the questions above. Write the introduction paragraph of an answer to the question. Use the appropriate format for an OSSLT opinion essay.

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:	Is how much you enjoy a job more important than how much you earn from a job?

Write your series of paragraphs on the lines provided on the following two pages.

Rough Notes

Use the space below for rough notes. Nothing you write in this space will be scored.

Opinion Essay

The OSSLT Opinion Essay is scored out of 60 points for content using this rubric.

10	<p>The response is related to the prompt but does not express an opinion.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The response expresses an opinion with no supporting details or provides details unrelated to the opinion. There is no evidence of organization.</p>
20	<p>The response is related to the prompt but only part of the response expresses and supports an opinion.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The response is related to the prompt, and expresses and supports an opinion, but the opinion is unclear or inconsistent. There are insufficient supporting details: too few or repetitious. There is limited evidence of organization.</p>
30	<p>The response is related to the prompt and expresses a clear opinion. There are insufficient and/or vague supporting details or the connections of the details to the opinion is not always clear. There is evidence of organization, but lapses distract from the overall communication.</p>
40	<p>The response is related to the prompt. A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient supporting details, however only some are specific. The organization is mechanical and any lapses do not distract from the overall communication.</p>
50	<p>The response is related to the prompt. A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient specific supporting details. The organization is logical.</p>
60	<p>The response is related to the assigned prompt. A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient specific supporting details that are thoughtfully chosen. The organization is coherent demonstrating a thoughtful progression of ideas.</p>