



# OSSLT PREP SESSION

This presentation will provide you with tips and help you to prepare for the following task on the OSSLT:

- Writing a series of paragraphs expressing an opinion

## TIPS FOR WRITING A SERIES OF PARAGRAPHS EXPRESSING AN OPINION

Clearly state your opinion in the introductory paragraph

Do NOT sit on the fence! (this means you cannot defend both sides of the topic). You must pick a side and defend your opinion!

Example: Should students have to wear a uniform?

Your answer should be “Students should have to wear a uniform.” or “Students should not have to wear a uniform.” and all examples provided must support the side you take.

You will receive a failing score if you defend both sides of the issue!

## TIPS FOR WRITING A SERIES OF PARAGRAPHS EXPRESSING AN OPINION

- Write 5 paragraphs: an introduction, 3 body paragraphs supporting your position and a concluding paragraph
- Include specific details and examples to support your opinions
- Write in complete sentences
- Use transition words as you move from one idea to the next
- Use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation

# MINI-LESSON

## WRITING A SERIES OF PARAGRAPHS THAT EXPRESS AN OPINION

**These are the instructions you'll see on the test day ...**

Write a series of 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.

# SAMPLE QUESTIONS FROM PAST TESTS

- Should every student be required to take Physical Education class every year of high school?
- Do teenagers place too much importance on what they wear?
- Is it a good idea for high school students to have a part-time job?
- Should any course be compulsory in high school?
- Is participation in extracurricular activities an important part of secondary school life?
- Are cellphones necessary in teenagers' lives?
- Are today's famous people good role models for young people?
- Should zoos exist?

# CONSIDER THE TOPICS FROM THE PREVIOUS SLIDE AND REMEMBER TO INCLUDE ...

**Introductory Paragraph:** Express your opinion clearly in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence

- Provide 2-3 reasons for your opinion
- List the reasons; they become your 3 body paragraphs
- The list can be three ideas in 1 sentence (like a thesis statement), or can be 3 different sentences

**Body Paragraphs (3):** Each body paragraph needs a topic sentence and a concluding sentence

- Each body paragraph should focus on 1 of the reasons you listed in your introductory paragraph
- Each reason should have an example to support it – remember to explain how the example supports your main argument

**Concluding Paragraph:** Restate your main opinion

- Sum up your 2-3 reasons in about 2-3 sentences

*Remember to start by brainstorming some ideas first!*

# ARE TODAY'S FAMOUS PEOPLE GOOD ROLE MODELS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

# CODE 60/60

## SAMPLE ANSWER

**Annotation:** Response is well developed with **clear and sufficient specific supporting details** that are thoughtfully chosen (nurturing parents, there for their children, jaw-dropping 8 million to different charities). **The organization is coherent** (use of transitions to indicate relationships among ideas however, also, for this reason) **and demonstrates a thoughtful progression of ideas** to a thoughtful conclusion (hope that young people have the sense to tell the difference).

### Sample Student Response

The lives and faces of famous people and celebrities are spread around everywhere from television and the internet to magazines and billboard. Young people see famous people everywhere and naturally they become the people youth look up to. With this, famous people are handed the power and great responsibility of being examples for and influencing young people everywhere. Some of them do an excellent job. However, others do not. (fill the role of role model) so well. Sadly, it is also those people who are often highlighted most by the media. You can't give famous people a generic description as either good or bad role models as some are, and some are not.

Some celebrities are excellent role models for young people. They realize that what they do influences young people and sets a standard. They take this role seriously and are in general just good, sensible people. Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are perhaps the most famous couple in Hollywood. They are also an example of how celebrities can be good role models. They are red carpet stars that are also loving, nurturing parents. They are there for their children, a good example to set. Also, in 2007 alone, Brad and Angelina donated a jaw-dropping \$8 million to different charities. They illustrate the importance of responsibility and also, giving back for all their success with their charitable donations. Brad and Angelina are just two of many famous people who have a positive influence on the young



# CODE 60/60 SAMPLE ANSWER, CONT'D

For more sample answers, go  
to [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com)

people who idolize them.

While some celebrities are outstanding role models, some are not very great. There are often reports in the media about famous people who are arrested for drug use or drinking and driving. Many famous people live luxurious lifestyles of partying, clubbing and substance abuse. They glorify these things that are actually incredibly negative and bad to do. Sadly, the media highlight these stars because that is how they sell magazines and make money. One example is the young pop star Britney Spears. She is constantly bombarded by paparazzi, and her life is splashed across the tabloids. Britney parties a lot and often spends her nights out on the town in revealing outfits. She has recently been admitted into a psychiatric hospital for an evaluation. She is at risk of losing her two young children to her ex-husband because the courts may deem her an unfit parent because of all the trouble she is surrounded by. The media love this, and they just eat it up as they do with all troubled stars. It is for this reason that things like drug use and partying have been glorified. Stars like Britney should be left alone, but they aren't. They are constantly in the public eye. For this reason, they should recognize the impact their actions have, and perhaps re-evaluate their lives.

It is no question that famous people have great influence on youth. Some are good role models, some are not so good role models. I think perhaps that we may just need to hope that young people have the sense to tell the difference.