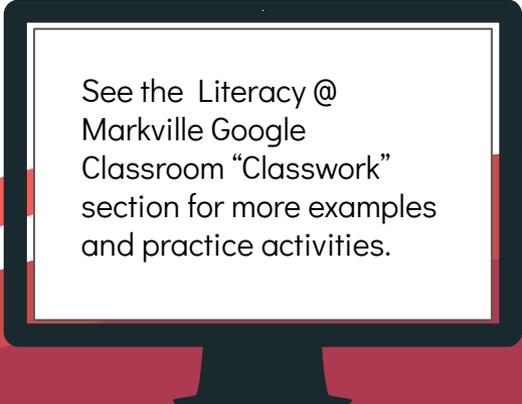


# Writing A Series of Opinion Paragraphs A.K.A. The Essay Cont...

Students please log on to the  
**Literacy @ Markville**  
**Secondary School Google**  
**Classroom**

Join Code: **mzbi4cr**

## Winter Literacy Blitz #2B



See the Literacy @  
Markville Google  
Classroom “Classwork”  
section for more examples  
and practice activities.



## **Target:**

- Write an effective series of paragraphs supporting an opinion.
- Identify ways to improve our writing.

## **Focus Question:**

- How can I best express my opinion on a topic and convince someone I am right?
- How can I improve my essay writing based on the criteria presented in the OSSLT rubrics?



TIME FOR

REVIEW

# “Series of Opinion Paragraphs”

It is testing these 3 skills:

1. Can you develop a **main idea (opinion)** with sufficient **supporting details**?
2. Can you **organize information** and ideas in a clear manner?
3. Can you use **proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation**?

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

Section VII: Writing

Section VII: Writing

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Section VII: Writing

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**Writing a Series of Paragraphs**

**Task:** Write a series of paragraphs (a minimum of three) 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

**Topic:** Should the sale of “junk foods” be banned from Ontario secondary schools?

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

**Rough Notes**

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

Continue writing your opinion piece on the next page.

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End of Section VII. Continue to Section VIII.

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## 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 participation in extracurricular activities an important part of secondary school life?

*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.*

yes	no
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Brainstorm your ideas in the rough notes area before you begin to write your essay.

Remember before writing choose only one side to argue... no fence sitting.



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

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## 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).

A close-up, top-down view of a portion of a dartboard. The board is divided into three visible segments: a large red segment at the top, a blue segment at the bottom left, and a green segment at the bottom right. The segments are separated by black lines. The red segment is the largest and contains the text "YOUR TURN" in bold, white, sans-serif capital letters. A silver dart with a black arrowhead is positioned vertically, pointing upwards into the red segment. The dart's shaft is visible, and the arrowhead is sharp and pointed towards the text. The background is white, and the overall image has a clean, graphic style.

**YOUR  
TURN**

# Student Activity Part 1 - Writing a “Series of Opinion Paragraphs”

Handouts are provided for this activity

## Student Activity Part 1 - Writing a “Series of Opinion Paragraphs”

**For this activity, the students may choose one of two topics to write their essay on:**

“Is participating in extracurricular activities an important part of secondary school life?”

OR

“Are cellphones necessary in teenagers’ lives?”

**Samples for the first question are presented on slides 13 and 14 of this presentation.**

1. Use the rough notes section to plan the essay.
  - When planning, decide which side allows you to present a stronger argument.
  - If you aren’t sure, brainstorm - list possible “yes” and “no” ideas.
2. Practice writing a series of paragraphs (an essay) from start to finish on the handouts provided.

**Remember to use the rough notes area to brainstorm your ideas **THEN** write their essay, filling both pages provided.**

**Handouts for both Essay Questions are provided - Take both but choose one to write in <sup>10</sup> class today.**

# Student Activity Part 2

## - Evaluating a “Series of Opinion Paragraphs”

Handouts are provided for this activity

## Student Activity Part 2 - Evaluating a “Series of Opinion Paragraphs”

### Self Assessment:

3.

- a) **As a class, look at the Code 50 & Code 60 Exemplars on slides 13 & 14.**

These are considered “high-level” responses

**NOTE:** EQAO has not released exemplars for the topic: “Are cellphones necessary in teenagers’ lives;” however, students can read over the samples provided and examine feedback as a guide for reading either response from their classmate.

- b) Consider the exemplars and use the checklist while assessing your essay.

**Complete the “Checklist for Writing a Series of Paragraphs Expressing an Opinion”.**

- a) **Discuss your assessment with a partner** and have your partner share their ideas on your essay with you.

50

Opinion  
Topic Development  
Code 50

Is participation in extracurricular activities an important part of secondary school life?

Participation in extracurricular activities are not an important part of secondary school life. The following are reasons why I believe this.

The first reason why I believe this is because everyone tells you you'll get to meet ~~so~~ so many people when in reality you probably already know most of them. You could meet people thru friends you already have, class, your locker partner, or just going up and talking to them. Every extracurricular activity says "you'll get to meet so many new and exciting people" your basically just meeting people you already know.

The second reason is that it could be very costly. For some activities you have to pay for a uniform, insurance, equipment, busing money (money to pay for a bus) tournament and registration. When you add it all up it could end up costing over two hundred dollars. Some people just can't afford that.

The third reason why extra circular activities are not an important part of secondary school life is because they don't really help your grades.

and you could have to miss school which really won't help. In order to join and stay in an extra circular you have to maintain good grades and do your homework and assignments. Well when you have practice 4 times a week after school for almost two hours this could be very difficult.

Extracurricular activities may be fun and all but they are not an important part of a secondary school life.

**Annotation:**

A clear and consistent opinion (*Participation in extracurricular activities are not an important part of secondary school life*) is developed with sufficient specific supporting details (*everyone tells you you'll get to meet so many people when in reality you probably already know most of them, it could be very costly, they don't really help your grades*). Reasons are developed with specific examples and explanations (*meet people thru friends, uniform, insurance, equipment, have to miss school*).

The organization is logical. There is an introduction, body and conclusion.

60

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

Opinion  
Topic Development  
Code 60

Is participation in extracurricular activities an important part of secondary school life?

Students who participate in extracurricular activities in high school have greater advantages than those who do not, which is why participation in these activities is significant. Extracurricular activities such as sports, photography groups or book clubs are few of the many groups that can enhance a student's academic performance. It is important that a high school student joins an extracurricular activity to develop co-operation skills, organizational skills and to increase chances of receiving academic rewards.

Students who take part in book clubs or sports develop skills that allow them to work well with others. They learn skills that may not be taught at home or in the classroom. For instance a person who plays volleyball is able to negotiate, co-operate, compromise, share and socialize more confidently than one who is not used to stepping outside of their comfort zone. Extracurricular activities provide a way for young teens to get to know each other and improve their socializing skills to ultimately enhance their secondary school experience.

Not only do teens develop skills in interaction but they also improve their organizational skills. A student who is able to finish their homework and make practice on time is a student who can prioritize, set goals and manage their time. These qualities are highly beneficial to the student's future when it comes to finding their career path which is why mastering these attributes in high school is important. Extracurricular activities teach a student how to excel in that particular activity and how to

use those skills in the classroom. If these tasks are practised well they will become good habits that can increase their chances of acceptance into a college or university of their choice.

Students who have experience in extracurricular activities have more options when it comes down to applying for college, university and for scholarships. For example a student who gets good grades and is able to juggle a sport or club is more likely to possess the qualities needed in obtaining a scholarship that specializes in that sport or club in comparison to a student who did not have the same experience. Ultimately universities want to see that you put effort into maintaining good grades but also that you went the extra mile to do your best.

As a result students who enhance their skills in communication and organization are more likely to receive a greater benefit such as getting accepted into an elite university or saving money by receiving a scholarship. Even after university and college the skills achieved from joining these activities will benefit in the long run because after all the more effort and hard work you put into something, the greater the award.

**Annotation:**

A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient specific supporting details that are thoughtfully chosen (*expand their social groups, develop positive personality traits*). Reasons are developed with examples and explanations (*more understanding occurs, teamwork, determination, optimism*).

The organization is coherent and demonstrates a thoughtful progression of ideas. The third body paragraph is linked to the first body paragraph (*Because teenagers use cellphones to contact friends in the first place*).

The conclusion returns to the question of need emphasized in the introduction and threaded throughout the response.

# Checklist for Writing a Series of Paragraphs Expressing an Opinion

## Reading:

I have...

- Demonstrated an understanding of the topic

## Planning:

I have...

- Planned my response using rough notes

## Writing:

I have...

- Used complete sentences
- Written a minimum of three separate paragraphs
- Used transitions to link my ideas
- Conveyed an effective tone through word choice and level of language
- Created a beginning (introduction), middle (body), and end (conclusion) that flow using connecting words
- Written an effective body paragraph(s) that includes a topic sentence and supporting details
- Used a consistent verb tense

## Revising and Editing:

I have...

- Written a response that is related to the assigned prompt and expresses and supports a consistent opinion
- Developed a clear and thoughtful opinion
- Provided sufficient specific and relevant supporting details
- Organized my response in a logical and coherent manner
- Checked my grammar, spelling, and punctuation
- Created a response that will appeal to my audience and meet the required purpose

*Created by A. Daniel*



# Thanks!

Please email or see Ms. Wilson in the Library  
for questions?

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