

## OGT Reading Test Strategies.

**A few facts about the OGT reading test:** You will read five passages:

Two are short (about one or two paragraphs), and one is longer (900 words).

The other two are in between.

Three of the passages are nonfiction and two are fiction. One of the passages may be poetry.

You will answer multiple choice, short-answer, and extended-response questions.

**How should I approach the OGT reading passages?**

- 1) **Read the title. Stop & think** for a second. What could the passage be about? Try to **connect** to your own experience, other readings, current events, other studies.
- 2) **Skim:** Read the first paragraph and first sentence of each of the other paragraphs. Visualize. Work to **get the main ideas** of the selection. You can go back for details later.
- 3) **Mark up the text.** Circle important words, put stars by important ideas, etc.
- 4) **Now go to the multiple choice questions.**

You will notice that some refer to **vocabulary** used in the passage, which is often underlined. Strategies for vocabulary questions are listed below.

Some are comprehension questions, checking your understanding of concepts in the passage.

Go ahead and work on the questions that you already feel prepared to answer. Then go back to the more challenging questions, working through them one by one.

**Read the question carefully. Stop and think.** *Don't read answer choices yet!* Instead—  
Rephrase the question in your own words. Answer the question in your own words.

Many questions will refer back to a specific place in the passage. **Take the time to look back** at the text, even if you think you know the answer. This is especially true of vocabulary questions.

**NOW look at the answer choices.** Read each answer choice carefully.

Eliminate and cross out any answers that you know are incorrect.

Go back to the passage as needed to clarify your thinking and make your best choice.

**Answer every question.** Do not leave any questions blank.

- 5) **Vocabulary questions:** Read carefully. Beware! Many words have multiple meanings.

Use the line reference (paragraph number) and look back in the text for the vocabulary word.

Be sure to read the sentence in which the word is used and use context clues.

Sometimes you may need to read the sentence before / after the sentence using the target word.

Use what you know about prefixes and root words as clues to the meaning of the word.

Eliminate "wrong" answers; make your best choice.

**For short answer and extended response questions:**

- 1) Think of these questions as an open-book test. The answers to the questions are usually right there in the text of the passage. Find the information and use it.
- 2) Read the prompt carefully. Underline key words in the prompt.
- 3) Make sure you know what the prompt is asking you to do. Watch for words like explain, summarize, describe, or justify. Review the list of key words so they're fresh in your mind.
- 4) Use the prompt itself to help you write your first sentence. Use the text to help you provide the answer to the question. Underline information in the text that supports the answer.
- 5) Notice the point value of the question. If it is a 2-point question, you must provide at least two facts or supporting details from the text. If it is a 4-point question, make sure you are providing four points or facts with supporting details.
- 6) Keep your ideas clear and focused on the prompt. If you are off topic, you will not earn points, even if your paragraph is well-written.
- 7) Use your best writing skills, spelling, and punctuation. Make sure your writing is legible, whether you print or write in cursive. Always read your response to check for errors in writing or content.

**Transition words** can help you with reading comprehension and in writing your extended responses.

Lists: First, second, furthermore, in addition to, moreover

Time relationships: While, when, after, before, during, next, always, never

Comparisons: Likewise, similarly, also

Contrast: However, but, nevertheless, on the other hand

Review the attached lists of testing and reading terms. If you have questions, be sure to ask your coach.

If you are an English Language Learner who is permitted to use a dictionary, be sure to use it!

# OGT READING TEST TIP SHEET

***Know the following reading terms:***

**Figurative language** – a tool used by authors to make writing more meaningful;

words and phrases aren't taken literally. Examples:

- **Simile** – a comparison of two seemingly unlike things using like or as

*Example* - The dog's fur was as black as midnight .

- **Metaphor** – a comparison of two things without using like or as; it just IS that thing

*Example* - Her fingernails were ten sparkling rubies.

- **Hyperbole** – extreme exaggeration, usually used for humor

*Example* – I've told you a million times . . .

or His mouth was the size of the Grand Canyon .

- **Onomatopoeia** – words that sound like the sound they represent; Ex: boom, drip, click

- **Repetition** – a phrase or word used several times for emphasis

- **Personification** – giving human qualities to a non-human thing; Ex: animals talking

- **Euphemism** – a phrase that replaces a possibly more-offensive one

*Example* – saying “vertically challenged” instead of short

- **Symbol** – where something in a story really represents something else

*Example* – the mockingbird represents an innocent victim

- **Analogy** – a comparison based on similarities in some ways, but maybe not others

- **Foreshadowing** – a hint of something to come in a story

- **Flashback** – an author's tool to explain something that happened in the past by having a character remember a situation or incident previous to the present one in the story

***Other reading terms:***

- ❖ **Point of view** – the angle from which the story is told;  
first person = character in the story; third person = outside narrator
- ❖ **Fact** – a statement that can be proven; many times includes numbers or statistics
- ❖ **Opinion** – a statement that can be supported, but not proven; something arguable
- ❖ **Style** – a writer’s unique way of telling or informing; may be flowery, factual, etc.
- ❖ **Plot** – the action of the story; consists of an introduction, rising action, climax (high or turning point of action), falling action, conclusion
- ❖ **Setting** – when and where the story occurs; not just time, but also place
- ❖ **Character** – a person/animal in the story, may be major or minor
- ❖ **Theme** – literary term for main idea; examples include love, people and nature, people and society, good vs. evil, coming of age – there are others, but remember, they are general and can apply to other situations, not just that story
- ❖ **Propaganda** – information that is spread to support a cause; examples are glittering generality, name-calling, card stacking, bandwagon, plain folks, testimonial, transfer – its purpose is to create an emotional connection between message and reader/listener; think of commercials!
- ❖ **Graphics** – used to illustrate information; can be bar graphs, pie graphs, line graphs, or some other visual aid. Read these and details around them in titles, etc. carefully for complete and accurate information.
- ❖ **Compare** – to show how ideas or objects are alike or similar
- ❖ **Contrast** – to show how ideas or objects are different

Vocabulary Tips:

- ◆ **Prefixes: *anti, contra, counter* – opposites (i.e. antifreeze, contrast, counterclockwise) *dis, mis, a* – negatives (i.e. displeasure, misunderstood, atypical)**

*mono* – one (monotone); *uni* – one (uniform); *bi* – two (bicycle); *di* – two (divorce);

*tri* – three (trio); *quad* – four (quadrangle); *quint* – five (quintet); *pent* – five

(pentagon)

- ◆ **Roots: *fid* – faith (confide); *path/pathos* – emotions or feelings (sympathy); *dict* – to say (diction); *greg* – group (congregation); *nomin* – name (nominate); *onym* – name (synonym)**

- ◆ **Suffixes: *ous, ness, ity, ish* – all refer to a state, quality, or condition (i.e. generous, kindness, dignity, selfish)**

Put some together: contradict = contra means opposite, dict means to speak, so contradict means to disagree or say the opposite!

antonym = ant means opposite, onym means name, so antonym means a word that is opposite

anonymous = a means not, onym means name, ous means having the quality of, so anonymous means one who is



## OGT Writing – Tips for Success

- 1) This test consists of two writing prompts. In addition, you will answer several multiple choice and one or two short answer questions in the middle of the prompts.
- 2) Use your time wisely. Divide your time for each prompt, allowing time for brainstorming, prewriting, writing and polishing your writing.
- 3) ALWAYS answer EVERY question! Never leave a question blank. If nothing else, restate the question in the form of a sentence. If you provide no answer, points will be deducted from your score.
- 4) Suggested strategy: Consider doing both of the writing samples first. They have a higher point value. Answer the remaining questions after the prompts. If you are short of time, make your best guess and move on. Answer every question.
- 5) Analyze prompts carefully to discover the type of writing you are required to do. Be certain to stick to the prompt and focus your writing on the required task.
- 6) After you analyze the prompt, brainstorm and prewrite. Organize your ideas in a logical order. Plan an introduction, body, and conclusion.
- 7) Don't wait for the inspiration of a clever hook. Start writing. Perhaps you will get a great idea as you write. You can always go back and revise your opening sentences.
- 8) If you are directed to write a letter, be sure to use proper format, including date, greeting, and closing. If you are unsure about the format, be sure to ask for examples.
- 9) To write a *narrative* means to write a *story*. Remember the elements of a story: Characters, setting, plot, theme, tone, mood, etc. Organize your ideas, include details, and conversation if appropriate. Be sure your story comes to a conclusion.
- 10) If you are asked to provide your opinion on an issue, be certain to have an opinion. Back it up with supportive facts or details.
- 11) Spelling and grammar are a small part of your score. Work to write using your best standard written English. However, don't be afraid to use higher-level vocabulary because you are unsure of the spelling. Precise language and creativity will improve your score. Check the ODE website for samples of student writing and scoring.
- 12) You may print or use cursive; just be certain your writing is legible. You may cross out, erase, or add to your writing. Be sure the scorers can easily read and understand your writing.

Relax on test day and have some fun showing off your writing skills!

