

# Course Overview

## Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course, Grade 12, Open (OLC40)

### Course Description

This course is designed to help students acquire and demonstrate the cross-curricular literacy skills that are evaluated by the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test. Students who complete the course successfully will meet the provincial literacy requirement for graduation. Students will read a variety of informational, narrative, and graphic texts and will produce a variety of forms of writing, including summaries, information paragraphs, opinion pieces, and news reports. Students will also maintain and manage a literacy portfolio containing a record of their reading experiences and samples of their writing.

### Rationale

The OSSLC is an alternative way for students to demonstrate the provincial literacy skills required for graduation. Successful completion of the course demonstrates that students have achieved the reading and writing skills required by the OSSLT. Just as important is the opportunity the course allows students to improve their reading and writing skills as a foundation for building and refining the literacy skills they require in their postsecondary destinations.

### Strands

The course is divided into three strands: *Building Reading Skills*; *Building Writing Skills*; and *Understanding and Assessing Growth in Literacy*.

### Building Reading Skills

Students need to be able to read and understand a variety of texts accurately for a variety of school and other real-life purposes. The competent reader, according to OSSLT criteria, is able to read informational, narrative, and graphic texts with reasonable accuracy and proficiency, to understand directly and indirectly stated ideas and information, and to make connections between texts and his or her own experiences and knowledge. The competent reader reads for a variety of purposes, and is able to understand texts of varying levels of challenge.

### Reading

Following extensive practice in reading a variety of texts, students will independently demonstrate for evaluation their understanding of a **minimum** of *two narrative texts, four graphic texts, and five informational texts*. These texts will be teacher-selected, and both of the texts and the tasks will be identical for all students in the class.

### Building Writing Skills

Students need to be able to write competently for a variety of school and other real-life purposes. The competent writer, as defined by the OSSLT criteria, states and supports main ideas, organizes writing clearly and coherently, and uses the conventions of standard Canadian English.

### Writing

Following extensive practice with writing in a variety of forms, students will independently produce for evaluation writing on demand, as follows: a **minimum** of *one summary, one information paragraph, two series of paragraphs expressing an opinion, and two news reports*. Topics will be assigned by the teacher, and the tasks will be identical for all students in the class.

### Understanding and Assessing Growth in Literacy

This strand requires students to assess their growth in literacy. Students will set learning goals, monitor their improvement in literacy throughout the course, and confer with their teacher about their progress at regular intervals. Students will also maintain and manage a literacy portfolio containing their reading responses, pieces of writing, and a learning journal in which they record their goal-setting and self-monitoring activities during

the course. Students will review this portfolio, both during the course and at its end, in order to assess their growth in literacy.

**Final Evaluation: 30 Percent of the Student’s Grade**

For the 30 percent final evaluation, all students will independently demonstrate the reading and writing skills they have developed in this course and will reflect upon their growth in literacy skills.

**Assessment and Evaluation of Student Achievement in the OSSLC**

Assessment of student work in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course differs from assessment for other courses in a number of key ways:

- Students who receive 50 percent or higher in the course receive a credit for the course and also are deemed to have met the secondary school literacy requirement for graduation.
- Although this course is offered in Grade 12 and represents a credit awarded in Grade 12, the standard for a pass in the course is comparable to that established by the OSSLT, which represents achievement of Grade 9 literacy expectations.
- The course has an Achievement Chart that describes student achievement of literacy skills. However, as the following chart shows, the levels and their mark ranges differ from those in the Achievement Charts for other courses.
- This course differs from other courses in outlining specific requirements for the final 30 per cent evaluation that will be administered towards the end of the course.

Course Work 70%				Final Evaluation 30%		
Reading 35%		Writing 35%		Reading 10%	Writing 10%	Reflection 10%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Narrative Texts</li> <li>• 4 Graphic Texts</li> <li>• 5 Informational Texts</li> </ul>	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 summary paragraph</li> <li>• 1 information paragraph</li> <li>• 2 series of paragraphs expressing an opinion</li> <li>• 2 news reports</li> </ul>	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responses to questions based on teacher selected text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 summary paragraph</li> <li>• 1 information paragraph</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Portfolio</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning Journal</li> </ul>	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning Journal</li> </ul>	5%			

**This outlines the minimum requirements of this course!**

**Levels of Achievement in the OSSLC**

The levels of achievement for the OSSLC are outlined below. It should be noted that the descriptions of achievement reflect the literacy standards set for the OSSLT. To meet the literacy standard required for graduation, students must demonstrate a moderate level of skill in reading and writing. Students who show limited skill in reading and writing will not pass the course. Note also that the percentage grade ranges in the chart are not aligned with the levels of achievement defined in other curriculum documents.

Percentage Grade Range	Description of the Level of Literacy Achieved
80-100%	A <b>skillful</b> and <b>effective</b> performance in reading and writing. The student has significantly exceeded the level of literacy required for graduation, and earns a credit for the course.
65-79%	Performance that shows <b>considerable</b> skill in reading and writing. The student has <b>exceeded</b> the level of literacy required for graduation, and earns a credit for the course.
50-64%	Performance that shows <b>moderate</b> skill in reading and writing. The student has <b>achieved</b> the level of literacy required for graduation, and earns a credit for the course.

0-49%	Performance that shows <b>limited</b> reading and writing skills. The student may be <b>approaching</b> the level of literacy required for graduation but cannot be deemed to have met the requirement and does not earn a credit for the course.
<b>Note:</b> A mark of 50 per cent represents both a pass in the course and the achievement of the literacy standard required for graduation.	

### English Department Policies

Homework will be assigned regularly and monitored.

All students will require a dictionary.

Students are reminded that deadlines are an important aspect of time and workload management in this course. If, for any reason, you are unable to meet your deadline, please consult with your teacher before the assignment is due. A penalty may be applied.

Plagiarism from outside sources or copying another student's work is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. **DO NOT LEND YOUR WORK.** Both the borrower and the lender will be penalized. Be advised that a mark of zero may be the result.

Work missed and covered by a doctor's note must still be made up. You are not excused from completing class assignments. Consult with your teacher as soon as you return to school.

A missed test or piece of in-class writing must be made up within one week of being assigned. Students who are repeatedly absent for tests and writing assignments may forfeit the opportunity to complete the alternate work. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for the make-up date.

**Course Evaluation Summary:**

<b>Course Work 70%</b>			
<b>Reading 35%</b>		<b>Writing 35%</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Narrative Texts</li> <li>• 4 Graphic Texts</li> <li>• 5 Informational Texts</li> </ul>	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 summary paragraph</li> <li>• 1 information paragraph</li> <li>• 2 series of paragraphs expressing an opinion</li> <li>• 2 news reports</li> </ul>	30%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning Journal</li> </ul>	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning Journal</li> </ul>	5%

**This outlines the minimum requirements of this course!**

Students are required to create a portfolio of course work. The items listed above are the minimum requirements that will be evaluated; these assessments are not the only tasks students will be required to complete.

<b>Reading 10%</b>	<b>Writing 10%</b>	<b>Reflection 10%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responses to questions based on teacher selected text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 summary paragraph</li> <li>• 1 information paragraph</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Portfolio</li> </ul>

Successful completion of this course satisfies the literacy requirement of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

**OLC40                      Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC)      September 2014**

**Take this home to review these expectations. Provide signatures to acknowledge you understand these expectations.**

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_