**EQAO TIPS**

1. Come to school on time. There is no extra time given to write the test.

2. Don’t mix up your question and answer booklets. Make sure you answer questions in the answer booklet.

3. Read the entire question. Make sure you understand the instructions. Re-read the question if you need to.

4. Underline all important information in the question. I’ve done this for you below. Doing this will serve as a reminder of what you need to do to answer the question properly.

Sample Question:

|  |
| --- |
| Task: Write a **news report** based on the headline and picture above. * You will have to make up the facts and information to answer some or all of the following questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?
* You must relate your news report to **both** the headline **and** the picture

 Purpose and audience: To report on an event for the readers of the newspaper Length: The lined space provided in the Answer Booklet for your written work  Indicates the approximate length of the writing expected.  |

3. Look for any bolded words. If you look closely at the sample question above, you will see that the bolded words show important instructions - you are writing a **news report** and it has to relate **both** the headline **and** the picture.

4. Write as clearly as you can. Remember that in order to give you full marks, the scorer needs to read what you wrote. If you write messy, you run the risk of the scorer having to guess what you’ve written. This can result in a poor grade.

5. Use up all the space provided. If you are given two pages of lined paper to write on, that means you need to write two pages. If you write on a computer, you should still stick to this page count.

6. While reading, underline all important information. This will make it easier to skim and scan for the answers.

7. Remember that the scorer doesn’t know you, so be detailed when you write and explain everything, as if the person reading has no clue what you’re talking about.

8. Move on if you don’t know the answer. Come back to it later.

9. Use extra time to go back and check your answers.

10. If you don’t understand a word, read to the end of the sentence and look for clues to its meaning. If this doesn’t help, try reading the sentences before and after the sentence to see if you can find the meaning from the context.

11. Multiple Choice Strategies

* Answer every question - no blanks!
* Use the process of elimination - find the answers that are clearly wrong, and cross them out.
* If two answers seem correct, choose the BEST one
* Don’t skim for answers - you must read the text carefully - even if it seems obvious, double check!
* Grammar questions will include: punctuation, capitalization, combining ideas into one sentence, fill-in-the-blanks, sentence structure, etc.

12. Answer the question using words taken directly from the question

 E.g. What was your favourite game as a child? Explain why you liked it?

 You should say: “**My favourite game as a child was** hide-and-go-seek.”

13. Use the word “because” or “this shows that” to explain your answers.

14. For the news report, write in the third person (he/she/they…) and in past tense.

15. Use the “rough notes” area to organize your writing task.