**EQAO STRATEGIES**

[**https://www.drooker.ca/eqao.html**](https://www.drooker.ca/eqao.html)

**(Password 4321)**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljX-XvVXP8g**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljX-XvVXP8g)

**GENERAL STRATEGIES**  
  
Come prepared and fuelled! Have a great breakfast and/or lunch!

Come prepared with a pencil, eraser, highlighter   
  
Are manipulatives allowed in the section? If so, use them if needed!   
  
Spend more time/energy on short answer responses than multiple choice questions  
  
Complete what you are confident in first and then revisit things you're unsure of!

If you’re entirely stuck, don’t leave a response blank. Make an educated guess by eliminating some of the less likely answers to improve your odds!

During the language portion of the test, pre-read the questions prior to reading the passage, etc. This will help you spot possible answers while you are reading.

**QUESTIONS AND WRITING TASKS THAT ARE TYPICALLY ENCOUNTERED...**Why did the author use a particular text feature? (Examples: Bold Words, Italic Words, Diagram, Photograph with Captions, Number Steps, Subtitles/headings, Glossary, Phonetic Pronunciation in Brackets).  
  
Why did the author decide to use a particular title?   
  
Explain how X,Y,Z might be helpful for someone?  
  
Explain what is meant when a character said: XYZ.   
  
Narrative ("Write a story about the first time you rode your bike)  
  
​Comparative paragraph (Think: Venn Diagram)  
  
Explanatory paragraph  
  
Persuasive paragraph  
  
Letter

**SHORT ANSWERS**  
  
Break down the question: Does it have 1, 2, or 3 parts that need your attention? Build in the requisite success criteria boxes for you to check off!   
  
When there is a third part to a question (“Use your own ideas”), this means—make a connection and relate to the text. It’s okay to fib and make up something if you’re stuck. No one will come and knock at your door and verify if you were telling the truth.   
**​**  
Now insert success criteria check boxes to remind you to apply "OPP/Our Proofreading Plan" and to UWQSA (Use the words in the question to start off your answer)!   
  
Now slowly plan out your answer. Have a clear idea as to what you plan on saying. Ensure you are actually answering the question correctly before beginning!  
  
**"HACKS"**  
  
Remember to write small! Generally speaking, people who write larger letters, tend to also write wider letters. Use the "Timber" strategy and drop your pencil over your writing. Your words should disappear beneath it.  
  
Try to use your pencil eraser as the width of space between your words.  
  
Start your answers slightly off the line and write slightly off the end of the line ("Stretch the line") to squeeze in some extra space for words.  
  
Use the ^ carrot symbol if you feel as though you're going to run out of room. Write above to save some room.   
  
**SUPPORTING WITH PROOF FROM THE TEXT...**  
  
When finding proof from the text, state where it can be found. To save room, you might want to use the "P" paragraph symbol in place of the word paragraph. and make sure you unpack the proof too!    
  
**Try to use the following sentence starters...**  
  
My proof can be found in P #2. This shows ABC.   
  
OR  
  
In P #2, it says: " X, Y, Z" which proves ABC.   
  
OR  
  
For example, in P # 2, it says: "X, Y, Z"  
  
OR  
  
It says: "X, Y, Z" in P #2 ..... This means.....  
  
  
**WHEN FINISHED...**  
  
You should have already applied OPP/Our Proofreading Plan after every sentence! Regardless of whether or not you did, apply it once more.  
  
YOU MUST: Use the handshake/oral approach. Actually, read your work out loud in a low murmur. Isolate each sentence. Imagine extending your hand to someone randomly on the street to shake their hand and saying the ONE isolated sentence out loud! The person might be surprised by such an unpredictable gesture but would your sentence make sense to them? If so, great. Move on to the next sentence and repeat the handshake approach!   
  
**MULTIPLE CHOICE STRATEGIES**  
  
When reading multiple choice questions, highlight key words.  
​  
If a question talks about a specific line/paragraph/stanza #, reread it before you answer the question.   
​  
Eliminate ridiculous choices from multiple choices  
  
If you're stuck, make a guess. Test makers often include a very high answer and a very low answer  
For Example:  
Solve: 5 + 5=  
A) 1235  
B) 10  
C) 0  
D) 11  
  
If you have to make a guess, cross out the highest answer (A) and the lowest answer (C) leaving two possibilities

**WRITING SECTION TIPS**  
  
**Typical text forms:**Paragraph (Comparative, Explanatory, descriptive, persuasive), narrative, letter,  
  
**Plan ahead! Create your own success criteria checklist!**  
  
**Paragraph Success Criteria**   
[https://www.drooker.ca/paragraphing.html   
​](https://www.drooker.ca/paragraphing.html%20​)<https://www.drooker.ca/explanatory-writing.html>   
<https://www.drooker.ca/descriptive-writing.html>   
<https://www.drooker.ca/reviewpersuasive.html>   
Indent (Use the "P" symbol instead)  
Topic sentence  
Transition words  
Supporing ideas (3-5)  
Closing sentence  
OPP (Do so after every sentence)  
  
**Narrative Success Criteria**  
<https://www.drooker.ca/narrative-writing.html>   
Indent (Use the "P" symbol instead)  
Orientation  
Problem  
Series of Events  
Resolution  
Dialogue  
Transition words  
Similes  
OPP (Do so after every sentence)  
  
**Letter Writing Success Criteria**  
<https://www.drooker.ca/letter-writing.html>   
Date,  
Greeting ,  (Formal? Informal?)  
Paragraphs  
Indent (Use the "P" symbol instead)  
Transition words  
Closing ,  
​Name/Signature

**MATH TIPS**  
<https://www.drooker.ca/math-toolkit.html>

Review your times table tricks.  
<https://www.drooker.ca/number.html>   
  
Remember that multiplication can be used to help with division!