

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

Item-Specific Rubric and Sample Student Responses with Annotations

**OSSLT Opinion Essay
Rubric and Scoring Guide for Topic Development**

Code	Descriptor
Blank	Nothing is typed in the text box.
I	<p>The response is one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a comment on the task • irrelevant or off-topic (unrelated to the prompt) • illegible; random characters; not written in English
10	<p>The response is related to the prompt but does not express an opinion.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>The response expresses an opinion with no supporting details or provides details unrelated to the opinion. There is no evidence of organization.</p>
20	<p>The response is related to the prompt, but only part of the response expresses and supports an opinion.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>The response is related to the prompt, and expresses and supports an opinion, but the opinion is unclear or inconsistent.</p> <p>There are insufficient supporting details: too few or repetitious. There is limited evidence of organization.</p>
30	<p>The response is related to the prompt and expresses a clear opinion. There are insufficient and/or vague supporting details or the connection of the details to the opinion is not always clear. There is evidence of organization, but lapses distract from the overall communication.</p>
40	<p>The response is related to the prompt. A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient supporting details; however, only some are specific. The organization is mechanical and any lapses do not distract from the overall communication.</p>
50	<p>The response is related to the prompt. A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient specific supporting details. The organization is logical.</p>
60	<p>The response is related to the assigned prompt. A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient specific supporting details that are thoughtfully chosen. The organization is coherent demonstrating a thoughtful progression of ideas.</p>

Code I

Do people depend too much on technology?

Writing an answer to this question takes too much time and energy.

Annotation: The response is off-topic and unrelated to the prompt and does not specifically refer to technology.

Code 10

Do people depend too much on technology?

Technology has evolved so much in the recent years that you could say people depend to much on it. I think this is true because of many reasons.

Annotation: The response expresses an opinion (...that you could say people depend to much on it) but contains no supporting details. There is no evidence of organization.

Code 20

Do people depend too much on technology?

Yes I think people depend too much on Technology. Everyone is always on their phones. Technology can be helpful, but some people rely on it too much. Most businesses wouldn't be able to run without technology. Overall, I think technology is used too much.

Annotation: The response is related to the prompt, and expresses and supports an opinion (Yes I think people depend too much on Technology) but there are insufficient supporting details (Most businesses wouldn't be able to run without technology.)

Code 30

Do people depend too much on technology?

Yes, people depend on technology too much. Education, social skills and situational awareness.

To begin, in classrooms every student has a phone with them-also glued to it. This is a huge distraction and for sure leaves some students without a strong understanding in whichever course.

Secondly, teenagers aren't properly socializing! Everything happens on online platforms and social media, nothing real.

Last, but certainly not least, situational awareness is greatly effected by cellphones and technology. For example the big game "Pokemon Go" ended with people struck by cars while glued to your phone! Prevntable.

Annotation: The response is related to the prompt and expresses a clear opinion (*Yes, people depend on technology too much*). There are insufficient and vague supporting details. (*Secondly, teenagers aren't properly socializing! Everything happens on online platforms and social media, nothing real.*) and (*...situational awareness is greatly effected by cellphones and technology.*) There is evidence of organization. The introduction states the opinion and there is a concluding statement (*To conclude, people are very dependent on technology*).

Code 40

Do people depend too much on technology?

Yes, people depend too much on technology. We live in a generation where you can't do anything without your phone or laptop. Technology can be good sometimes but depending on it too much isn't. The old days where people didn't have technology were simple. Yes technology has made life easier but it's bad to depend on it because things happen. What if there's a sudden blackout? No electricity, no service, no wifi, what will we do then? The human race is always evolving and changing, and with that technology is completing so many tasks for us that we don't know how to do things on our own.

I remember a few weeks back, a very popular app had shut down and stopped working for hours. Instagram, the app, had technical difficulties and stopped working for a few hours at most. People were freaking out. Everyone seemed as though something huge had just happened. What has our human race come to? To freak out over a social media app shutting down: This proved we depend on technology too much.

It seems as though we can't live without it, and this problem will only continue to grow so technology evolves. It's sad. We've come to the point where we are literally on our phones 24/7. Go to a restaurant to eat and people have their phones pulled out, at the mall, even at school or with friends or family, it seems like everywhere we go everyone is distracted by their phones.

It's a problem, we do depend too much on technology as if it's everything to us. A source of entertainment, a guide when we need help, and even a friend sometimes.

Annotation: A clear and consistent opinion is developed (*Yes, people depend too much on technology.*) with sufficient supporting details. Only some details are specific (*Instagram, the app, had technical difficulties and stopped working for a few hours at most. People were freaking out.*); some details are not specific (*Yes, technology has made life easier but it's bad to depend on it because things happen.*)

The organization is mechanical. Lapses do not distract from the overall communication (ie. the conclusion does not follow the discussion topics in the body paragraphs).

Code 50

Do people depend too much on technology?

People do not depend on technology too much. I think That technology is something that is needed for various of reasons. Technology helps us figure out certain things faster, it is useful for safety and technology will advace in the future and the more we use them now, the better. Technology is very important to humanity...

Firstly, technology helps us figure out certain things faster and it lets us research. For example, if you were looking for the definition of a word, the internet would be faster than looking in the dictionary. The calculater's on our phones let us do basic maths that we cannot do in ar heads which spares you time. Technology has an important facter on our lives, it helps us gain knowledge by the blink of an eye.

Secondly, our phones and other technology are useful for yor safety. Our phones have a special features for emergencies and without them you can be in danger; for example; amber alerts, weather warnings, and also emergency SOS. If you are lost, you can simply open up google maps, and find your way into a safe place where you would know your way. Technology are useful for many reasons and it secures your safety which is very importat, a simple phone call can save your life.

Thirdly, the future will be filled with all sorts of technology and will be more apart of our life then ever. The trend in the future for many careers will be technology as it will help us complete the work more efficiently and more accurately. The understanding of technology is important because it will be more essential as generations pass; so having technology skills are expected in reference to the future. The more we use our technology now, the better knowledge we will be in the future.

In conclusion, technology is very important to our lives and we do not depend on it too much. It is essential for research purposes, useful for you safety and the future will be filled with technology so the more you know, the better. I think that technology will advance tremendesly as generations pass so the skill of technology will be needed. Technology will be emitted in our lives forever, we either take advantage of it or waste it for no good reason.

Annotation: A clear and consistent opinion is developed (*People do not depend on technology too much*) with sufficient specific supporting details (*the internet would be faster than looking in the dictionary*) and (*Our phones have a special features for emergencies and without them you can be in danger, for example; amber alerts, weather warnings, and also emergency SOS*).

The final body paragraph is a bit weaker than the first two in that the example is less specific (*the future for many careers will be technology as it will help us complete the work more efficiently and more accurately*); therefore, this response would not be scored a 60.

The organization is logical. The body develops the ideas in the same order as they are set out in the introduction, and the main ideas are summarized in the conclusion.

Although the body paragraphs are somewhat mechanical in that they use *Firstly...Secondly...Thirdly*, the caliber of the discussion following the introductory statements is consistent with the requirements of a Code 50.

Code 60

Do people depend too much on technology?

The advancement of technology has in many ways made our lives much easier. The things we could never think about happening in the past have been made possible with the advancement of technology. However, with technology making our lives easier, we humans have started to depend on it too much. In my opinion, people depend too much on technology as it is becoming a tool for fast, effective communication, being used for school purposes increasingly as well as personal entertainment.

Technological advancements have made communication much faster and easier. For messages that had to once be delivered by people physically delivering the message, we can now call, text or email. However, the fact that it is easier doesn't make it difficult to notice that everyone is communicating through screens and less in person. Studies have shown that teens aged 15-18 have problems communicating with people in person due to the growing use of cell phones and computers. The increased use of cell phones and computers hinders with real life communication of many individuals and this is because we are becoming too dependent on technology for communication purposes.

In addition, the use of cellphones and computers in school and for school purposes have contributed to making people more dependent on technology. For instance, homework was once physically written on the board and students used to have to write it down themselves. With technology advancing, the teacher can now post the homework on an app like Google classroom and have kids submit homework online as well. However, this can cause problems since things like autocorrect and grammarly will help fix student's mistakes but students will never learn how to spell words correctly without grammarly or autocorrect. It's been shown that students who type their work and use autocorrect will naturally spell worse than those who don't since their spelling mistakes are fixed automatically. The increased use of technology in classrooms has made people more dependent on it.

Finally, our use of technology for personal entertainment also makes us more dependent on technology. Kids in the past used to take part in more physical activity to have fun but with televisions around, kids are entertained while being seated which promotes obesity as well. However, it sounds easier to sit around and have fun which makes us more dependent on technology.

In conclusion, I believe that people are becoming too dependent on technology as it is becoming an easier way to communicate, complete schoolwork and entertain ourselves.

Annotation: A clear and consistent opinion is developed (*In my opinion, people depend too much on technology...*). There are sufficient specific supporting details that are thoughtfully chosen (*Studies have shown that teens aged 15 – 18 have problems communicating with people in person due to the growing use of cellphones*) and (*students who type their work and use autocorrect will naturally spell worse than those who don't...*). The organization is coherent and demonstrates a thoughtful progression of ideas. The discussion in the body paragraphs follows the order laid out in the introduction. Although the third body paragraph and the conclusion are short, the thoughtfulness of the response and the effective organization are consistent with a Code 60.