

West Kildonan Collegiate

Literacy Toolbox



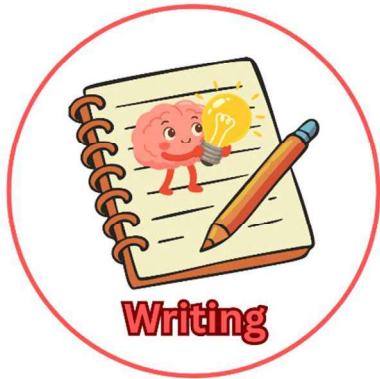
Welcome!

This literacy handbook was created to support students who may feel overwhelmed by the many expectations and responsibilities that come with high school. Inside, you will find a variety of helpful graphic organizers and learning tools designed to build confidence and strengthen essential literacy skills. The handbook includes supports for notetaking, sentence writing, reading comprehension, writing strategies, organization, and more.

We hope this handbook becomes a useful guide throughout your high school journey and helps make learning more manageable and successful.

Enjoy- West Kildonan Staff

Legend



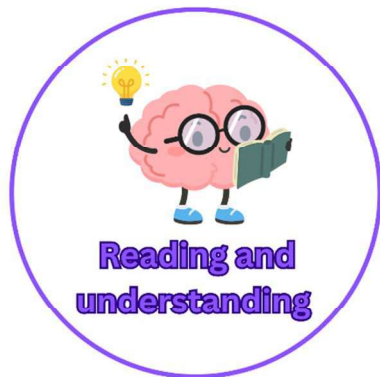
Look for me when needing assistance with writing!



Look for me when checking your work!



Look for me when you've found some new words!



Look for me to understand new topics!

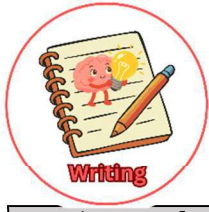
World Event Posts
Literacy Bills and Payments
Political Influence
Appointments Post-Secondary School
Shopping Lists and Sales Speeches
Mental Health **Speaking**
Resolving Conflicts Negotiating
Celebrations and Toasts
Medical Health **Group Discussions**
Professional Correspondents
Writing **Invitations**
Studying **Story Telling**
Social Media Posts
SAFETY SIGNS
Event Planning
Group Chats **Reading**
Job Postings *Traveling*



102 Frequently Misspelled Words

From: wow.spelling-words-well.com

absence	excellent'	pneumonia
accidentally	excitement	possess
accommodate	experience	practically
achieve	familiar	preferred
acquaintance	fascinate	privilege
against	favorite	probably
a lot	February	raspberry
already	finally	realize
argument	foreign	receive
attendance	friend	recommend
because	government	remember
beginning	grammar	restaurant
believe	guarantee	rhythm
business	height	ridiculous
calendar	immediately	schedule
cemetery	independent	scissors
chief	instead	separate
committee	interrupt	similar
conscience	judgment	sincerely
convenience	leisure	straight
courageous	library	strengthen
criticize	lightning	studying
decision	lonely	summarize
definitely	lying	surprise
desperately	millionaire	thorough
dictionary	mischievous	tomorrow
different	necessary	truly
disease	niece	until
doesn't	noticeable	vacuum
embarrass	occasion	vegetable
enough	occurred	Wednesday
environment	opposite	weight
especially	particular	weird
exaggerate	physical	yacht



MOOD WORDS

Mood is how the author wants the READER to feel while reading.

Negative Mood Words	
Ominous: Warning that something bad may happen.	Disturbing: Makes you feel upset or uneasy,
Gloomy; Dark, sad, and depressing.	Tense: Full of stress or nervous energy.
Creepy: Makes you feel uneasy or Scared,	Suspenseful: Makes you wonder what will happen next.
Tragic: Very sad, often involving loss or death.	Sorrowful: Feeling deep Sadness.
Haunting: Sticks in your mind in a sad or spooky way.	Somber: Very serious or gloomy.

Neutral/Uncertain Mood Words	
Confusing: Hard to understand or follow.	Aggressive: Strong, forceful. and possibly angry.
Curious: Wanting to know or learn more.	Explosive: Full of sudden, intense emotion.
uneasy: Uncomfortable or worried.	Wild: uncontrolled or untamed.
Strange: unusual or odd.	Surreal: Very weird, like a dream or illusion.
Urgent: Needing quick action or attention.	Heated: Full of anger or strong feelings.

Positive Mood Words	
Cheerful: Happy and pleasant.	Fearless: Not afraid at all.
Joyful: Full of happiness and excitement.	Confident: Sure of yourself or your abilities.
Lighthearted: Carefree and fun.	Determined: Not giving up easily.
Warm: Friendly and comforting.	Passionate; Filled with strong love or feeling.
Hopeful: Expecting good things to happen.	Sentimental: Full of emotional memories or feelings.

TONE WORDS

Tone is how the AUTHOR feels about the topic while writing.

Negative Tone Words	
Skeptical: Doubtful or questioning, often implying a lack of trust or belief	Defensive: Self-protective, often in a manner that can be perceived as aggressive or dismissive.
Judgmental: Inclined to make judgments, especially moral or personal ones, often critically.	Critical: Expressing adverse or disapproving comments or judgments
Incredulous: Indicating disbelief, often in a skeptical way.	Caustic: Biting, cutting, or corrosively sharp in criticism.
Dejected: Sad and depressed, dispirited.	Adversarial: Suggesting opposition or conflict.
Derisive: Expressing contempt or ridicule.	Acerbic: Sharp and forthright, especially in a comment or style of speaking.

Neutral Tone Words	
Ambivalent: Having mixed feelings or contradictory ideas about something or someone.	Frank: Open, honest, and direct in speech or writing, especially when dealing with unpalatable matters.
Appreciative: Feeling or showing gratitude or pleasure.	Objective: Not influenced by personal feelings or opinions in considering and representing facts.
Assertive: Having or showing a confident and forceful personality.	Diplomatic: Of or concerning diplomacy; skilled in dealing with sensitive matters or people.
Candid: Truthful and straightforward; frank.	Contemplative: Expressing or involving prolonged thought.

Positive Tone Words	
Appreciative: Feeling or showing gratitude or pleasure	Elated: Ecstatically happy,
Arrogant: Overbearingly assuming; insolently proud.	Empathetic: Showing an ability to understand and share the feelings of another.
Assertive: Having or showing a confident and forceful personality.	Engaging: Charming and attractive; captivating.
Candid: Truthful and straightforward; frank.	Enthusiastic: Having or showing intense eager enjoyment, interest or approval.
Conciliatory: Intended or likely to placate or pacify	Exuberant: Filled with or characterized by a lively energy and excitement.



GENERAL CHECKLIST

Before saying "I'm Done"... Check your work and use this list.

Introduction

- ☐ I have a hook that grabs the reader's attention.
- ☐ I have included background information that sets up my topic.
- ☐ I have a thesis statement.
- ☐ My thesis statement is an inference.
- ☐ My thesis statement has the word because in it.

1st Body Paragraph

- ☐ I have written a transition sentence that restates reason #1 from my thesis in new words and includes "because..." to explain my thinking.
- ☐ I have asked a follow-up question about reason and answered it OR explained why it's important or what it reminds me of.
- ☐ I have introduced my text evidence clearly.
- ☐ I have included text evidence (quotes or paraphrases).
- ☐ I have explained how my text evidence connects to reason and why it matters.

2nd Body Paragraph

- ☐ I have written a transition sentence that restates reason #2 from my thesis in new words and includes "because..." to explain my thinking.
- ☐ I have asked a follow-up question about reason #2 and answered it OR explained why it's important or what it reminds me of.
- ☐ I have introduced my text evidence clearly.
- ☐ I have included text evidence (quotes or paraphrase).
- ☐ I have explained how my text evidence connects to reason N2 and why it matters.

Counterargument (only argumentative texts)

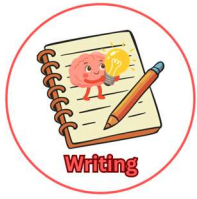
- ☐ I have explained what the other side might say about one or both of my reasons.
- ☐ I have explained why the other side is wrong, and I used text evidence if required.

Conclusion

- ☐ I began with a concluding transition word
- ☐ I have restated my thesis using different words.
- ☐ I have summarized my two reasons.
- ☐ I have explained why the reader should care, how this applies to them, or why the author's ideas are important.

Overall Stuff to Check for

- ☐ I checked the spelling of words I was unsure about using a dictionary or an online tool.
- ☐ I used paragraphs in the essay
- ☐ I have complete sentences, commas where needed, apostrophes where needed, and checked for anything else I was unsure about in my writing.



Use this alongside the “organizing ideas” worksheet to write a paragraph.

Paragraph Frame

(Topic Sentence) _____

_____.

(Point 1a) _____

_____.

(Point 1b) _____

_____.

(Point 1c) _____

_____.

(Transition Word) _____, (Point 2a) _____

_____.

(Point 2b) _____

_____.

(Point 2c) _____

_____.

(Transition Word) _____, (Point 3a) _____

_____.

(Point 3b) _____

_____.

(Point 3c) _____

_____.

(Concluding Sentence) _____

_____.

_____.

Organizing Ideas (General)³⁶

Main topic (of chapter, book, short story, article, etc.):

Main ideas:

1. _____	2. _____	3. _____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Supporting examples, points, details:

a. _____	a. _____	a. _____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
b. _____	b. _____	b. _____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
c. _____	c. _____	c. _____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
d. _____	d. _____	d. _____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

³⁶ From Edmonton Public School District No. 7. Reprinted with permission.



Use this to prepare an assignment
BLACKLINE MASTER

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

CRITICAL THINKING

Issue	
Perspective 1	Perspective 2
Defence	Defence
Defence	Defence
Defence	Defence



Use this to prepare an assignment

DECISION-MAKING

Agree	The Issue	Disagree

Concluding Statement:

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Ways to HOOK Your Reader

Description

Eight beady little eyes and fuzzy, long legs creep and crawl their way up the wall in my bedroom...something of nightmares? No... they're spiders. Recently, the spider population in cities has been decreasing. This surprising occurrence is happening for many reasons.

Repetition

"Yes! Yes! Yes! I finally got an A on my math test!" More and more students are feeling this way thanks to new study techniques that have been proven in the last decade. Some examples of these successful techniques are...

Exclamation

"Oh Geez! I made a mistake on my paper... now I have to start all over again!" Actually, no, I don't, thanks to the person who invented white-out! There are many other things we do on a daily basis that have been made easier thanks to inventions. For example,

Adjectives

Red and orange flames leaping from the crackling, fresh-cut logs. Browning my marshmallow to crispy perfection! It's easy to see why camping is quickly becoming one of America's favourite pastimes!

Complaint

Oh great! Here we go again... waiting! I have to wait in the morning, wait in the rain, wait in the hot sun, wait in the snow! I'm sick and tired of waiting. Public transportation in this city needs to change.

Fact

There are over 200 million bugs for every single person on this planet. It was only a matter of time before we started seeing them as a food source. There are actually many benefits to eating bugs, for example,

Question

Have you ever wondered why we celebrate so many similar holidays? Veteran's Day... Memorial Day... Patriot's Day...? They may seem similar, but actually they are very different!

Sound

RINGGGGG! That's the sound of my alarm clock! I have to get up for school! Gross! Just kidding... It's summer break, my favourite time of year!

Quote

"No one has ever become poor by giving" -Anne Frank. Similar to Anne Frank, throughout history there have been many women who are notable. Some examples of famous women in history are...



Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

SPIDER DEFINITION

SKETCH

DEFINITIONS

WORD

EXAMPLES

Add examples from your textbook that illustrate the word you are defining

SYNONYMS



CONNECTION T-Chart

Using a connection t-chart can help you find more meaning and value in what you're reading/viewing. This can improve your understanding and analysis.

Quote or Idea from what I've read or seen:	Connection I've Made
	This reminds me of... I already know that..