Literacy Assessment Tips

General Tips:

- Stay calm and take breaks if needed. Breathe!

- Take your time. Read instructions carefully and slowly. Don't rush. Focus on one question at a time.

- Use the tools on the right sidebar – especially the Notes and Highlighter. Also, look at the list on the left sidebar (shows sections and questions) which will ensure there are no surprises.

- Always look around to see how many points a question or activity is worth AND about how much time should be spent on each. This will help you use your time in the best way possible.

Tips for the Readings and Solving Multiple Choice Questions:

- Preview the reading and then the questions before getting started (and make "Notes" about the questions to look for while reading and searching for answers).

- Highlight key points as you read. This will make it so much easier to find things if you need to come back (instead of having to read everything all over again!).

- Flip back and forth freely between readings and questions and use the double panel.

- Try to make real-world connections to the questions and material – it might help you better understand and answer questions.

- Sometimes rewording the questions or material helps make them more understandable.

- If you get stuck, flag the question and come back later.

- Don't stay stuck on questions worth 1 point … make a guess and move on!

- Cross off the answers that can't be right. If needed, make a guess (and flag to come back later).

Writing Tips:

- Don't start writing straight away!

- Create an outline in Notes for the writing activities before you start writing (gather ideas first, which makes writing easier).

- Writing Components: Intro □ Body □ Conclusion

- Each paragraph becomes its own little sandwich – starting word like "Firstly" or 'In conclusion", then state the topic, followed by examples and support for the main point, and lastly wrap it up with a closing.

    - Reference the reading materials for specific examples, if needed.

    - After writing it all, go back and read over it again to look for mistakes or ways that you could improve it (eg. spelling, grammar, linking and transition words, solid examples, word choice, etc).

Writing Sample:

The urge to explore and discover reveals aspects of human nature - both good and bad. Our interest in exploration shows how we are driven by our egos and, oftentimes greed. It also shows how curious we are and also how limited we are.

First off, there are many examples of explorers driven by their egos and desire to gain recognition. One example is the "waterfall guy" who posted everywhere about how amazing he was and that he found a waterfall that the locals definitely would have already known about. We also see people driven by greed, exploring so that they can get access to resources and make lots of money. In both of these cases, we see that some explorers are selfish.

Secondly, people are always wanting to learn more - especially about space - and so they demonstrate curiosity in terms of exploration. Since the moon landing, humans have continued to question if other lifeforms exist and where else humans could live. Early explorers were also curious as they went in search of the unknown and made maps along the way. Humans are curious at their core.

Finally, our pursuit of exploration shows how limited we are and how much we need robots. Early explorers made good maps, but now robots can go to places or do things that people can't do. In "The Future of Exploration' we see that Human Space Exploration went really far, but Robotic Science will get us even farther! Humans are more limited than robots in future exploration.

In conclusion, we see that there is both good and bad in human exploration. Three things exploration shows us about humans are that we are driven by ego and greed, we are curious, and we are limited.

Legend:

Introduction Body Conclusion

Introduction – topic sentence (hook the reader) → thesis statement (main supporting points)

Body Paragraph "Sandwich" – Starting word → topic sentence → evidence/support → wrap-up

Conclusion – you want to remind the reader of your topic, stance and key points, just in case they forgot