

Scoring Guideline: TOEFL Test

Score = 6

A typical essay at this level:

- effectively addresses the writing task
- is well organized and well developed
- uses clearly appropriate details to support a thesis or illustrate ideas
- displays consistent facility in the use of language
- demonstrates syntactic variety and appropriate word choice, though it may have occasional errors

Score = 5

A typical essay at this level:

- may address some parts of the task more effectively than others
- is generally well-organized and well-developed
- uses details to support a thesis or illustrate idea
- displays facility in the use of language
- demonstrates some syntactic variety and range of vocabulary, though it will probably have occasional errors

Score = 4

A typical essay at this level:

- addresses the writing topic adequately but may slight parts of the task
- is adequately organized and developed
- uses some details to support a thesis or illustrate an idea
- demonstrates adequate but possibly inconsistent facility with syntax and usage
- may contain some errors that occasionally obscure meaning

Score = 3

A typical essay at this level may reveal one or more of the following weaknesses

- inadequate organization or development
- inappropriate or insufficient details to support or illustrate generalizations
- a noticeably inappropriate choice of words or word forms
- an accumulation of errors in sentence structure and/or usage

Score = 2

A typical essay at this level is flawed by one or more of the following weaknesses:

- serious disorganization or underdevelopment
- little or no detail, or irrelevant specifics
- serious and frequent errors in sentence structure and usage
- serious problems with focus

Score = 1

A typical essay at this level:

- may be incoherent
- may be undeveloped
- may contain severe or persistent writing errors