

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