

Advanced Composition for Non-Native Speakers of English

Six Point Rubric Used by ETS for the Test of Written English

The following scoring guide is used to evaluate the TOEFL Test of Written English. It was published in the book by Liz Hamp-Lyons, Newbury House TOEFL Preparation Kit, Preparing for the Test of Written English. Some of the essays written by students in the LNG Academic English courses are scored summatively using the TWE Scoring Guide:

TWE SCORING GUIDE

- 6 Clearly demonstrates competence on both the rhetorical and syntactic levels, though it may have occasional errors.

A Paper in this category

- is well organized and well developed
- effectively addresses the writing task
- uses appropriate details to support a thesis or illustrate ideas
- shows unity, coherence, and progression
- displays consistent facility in the use of language
- demonstrates syntactic variety and appropriate word choice

- 5 Demonstrates competence in writing on both the rhetorical and syntactic levels, though it will have occasional errors.

A Paper in this category

- is generally well organized and well developed though it may have fewer details than does a 6 paper
- may address some parts of the task more effectively than others
- shows unity, coherence, and progression
- demonstrates some syntactic variety and range of vocabulary
- displays facility in language, though it may have more errors than does a 6 paper

- 4 Demonstrates minimal competence in writing on both the rhetorical and syntactic levels.

A Paper in this category

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

- 3 Demonstrates some developing competence in writing, but it remains flawed on either the rhetorical or syntactic level, or both.

A paper in this category may reveal one or more of the following weaknesses:

- inadequate organization or development
- failure to support or illustrate generalizations with appropriate or sufficient detail
- an accumulation of errors in sentence structure and/or usage
- a noticeably inappropriate choice of words or word forms

- 2 Suggests incompetence in writing.

A paper in this category is seriously flawed by one or more of the following weaknesses:

- failure to organize or develop
- little or no detail or relevant specifics
- serious and frequent errors in usage or sentence structure
- serious problems with focus

- 1 Demonstrates incompetence in writing.

A paper in this category will contain serious and persistent writing errors, may be illogical or incoherent, or may reveal the writer's inability to comprehend the question. A paper that is severely underdeveloped, or one that exhibits no response at all, also falls into this category.