



# How to Crack TOEFL® iBT

## TOEFL® iBT Independent essay

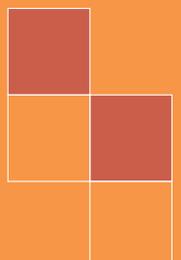
In this part of the writing section you will be asked to present your opinion on a certain topic. You will have 30 minutes to write your essay. An effective independent essay should be about 300 words long. You can write fewer words as long as your ideas are well-developed and fully support your opinion on the topic. You can also write more than 300 words, but the response should be to the topic, as the quality of your writing is what is important, not the amount.



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### Strategies for writing a good integrated essay

- Read the topic carefully and make sure you understand it.
- Before you start writing, make a plan of the essay - that will help you organize your ideas and thoughts better.
- Write clearly and with variety of language structures, use discourse markers to make connections between ideas.
- Leave a few minutes at the end to check your essay for spelling or grammatical mistakes.
- Keep track of the time - you should manage to finish your essay within the set period of time. Do not allow the system to cut you off before you have completed your thought.

### Organization of the integrated essay

A good [TOEFL Independent essay](#) will have the following structure:

- **Introduction**
  - Some thought-provoking idea (proverb, saying), something that would catch the reader's attention;
  - General statement – what people generally think on the topic;
  - Thesis – the last sentence of the introduction, where you state your opinion and reasons for holding that opinion.
- **Body** – the number of paragraphs in the body will depend on the number of reasons presented in the thesis sentence in the introduction.
  - First paragraph – reason for holding a certain opinion – details and examples;
  - Second paragraph - reason for holding a certain opinion – details and examples;
  - (Third paragraph - reason for holding a certain opinion – details and examples;)
- **Conclusion**
  - Rephrase the thesis
  - General comment

### What do raters look at?



**Development**

- Address the topic;
- Present details and examples to support your ideas;
- Avoid using clichés or long empty of content phrases;

**Organization**

- The essay should be written in such a way that it is read from beginning to end without becoming confused;
- Write in paragraphs and use discourse markers to connect ideas or to move from one idea to another;
- Avoid repetition of ideas, irrelevant information or details or ambiguous connections between ideas.

**Language use**

- Use variety of sentence structures, words and expressions.

See also the section [Test Taking Strategies](#) for more tips for each particular [TOEFL](#) task – [TOEFL Reading](#), [TOEFL Listening](#), [TOEFL Speaking](#), and [TOEFL Writing](#).

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