



# Practice Test #12

FOR THE TOEFL®  
WRITING SECTION



**Practice Test #12**  
For the TOEFL®  
*Writing Section*



## The TOEFL Writing Section: *Directions*

 This section measures your ability to use writing to communicate in an academic environment. There will be two writing tasks.

For the first writing task, you will read a passage and listen to a lecture and then answer a question based on what you have read and heard. For the second task, you will answer a question based on your own knowledge and experience.

When you see the audio icon  it means that there is an audio version of the text. [Please click the icon to get redirected to the audio file.](#)

If you would like to see a model essay of the question you are answering, you can refer to the answer key.

When you're ready, turn the page to see the directions for the first writing task.



## Writing Task 1 - Integrated Question

 **Directions:** For this task you will read a passage and listen to a lecture about an academic topic.

You may take notes during this time. After the passages have finished, you will then be asked a question about them. After the question, you will have 20 minutes to write your response. Effective responses are usually between 200 to 350 words. You may look at the reading passage and your notes as you write. Keep in mind that the question will not ask for your opinion.

You have 3 minutes to read. You may begin reading now.

For years, people have been cutting down trees to provide the necessary materials to build homes and create various everyday items. However, due to population increases and the advent of new technology, clearing forests has become easier than ever. This has led to deforestation, a state in which large areas of nature are cleared of all trees. While some oppose deforestation, there are many benefits that help improve people's lives.

The clearing of large areas of land has provided an abundance of farmland. In place of trees, large fields have been created which can be used to raise both crops and livestock. As the world population continues to increase, it's crucial that enough food is produced for every single citizen. Not only do these new farms provide for local residents, but the local economy also benefits if they produce a surplus which can be exported to other areas.

Secondly, cleared land is not only used for farming, but for the development of new residential areas. As previously mentioned, the global population is rising, and with more people comes an increased demand for living space. This arrangement also benefits the regional economy. Investors buy up areas of land, employ locals to build homes and buildings, and a new urban area arises where people can live, work, and thrive.

Finally, it's important to remember that the forestry industry is an integral part of many national economies. In countries like Brazil, Thailand, and Indonesia, there is a large percentage of the population who rely on deforestation as a source of income. In order to satisfy the world's demand for paper, furniture, and lumber, thousands of jobs have already been created. What will happen to these workers if this industry is shut down?



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 Now listen to part of a lecture on the same topic you just read about.

After you listen to the passage, answer the question.

***Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to explain how they cast doubt on the specific points made in the reading passage.***

You have 20 minutes to plan and write your response.



## Writing Task 2 - Independent Question

 **Directions:** For this task, you will write an essay in response to a question that asks you to state, explain, and support your opinion on an issue.

Typically, an effective essay will contain a minimum of 300 words. Your essay will be judged based on the quality of your writing. This includes the development of your ideas, the organization of your essay, and the quality and accuracy of the language you use to express your ideas.

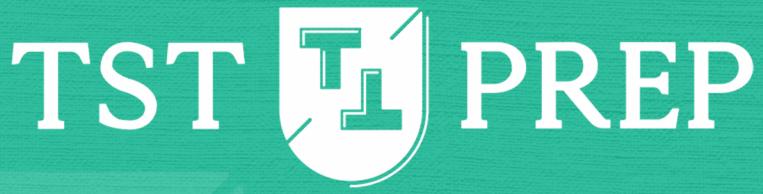
You have 30 minutes to plan and complete your essay.

***Your local government has just recently received a large donation from an anonymous donor to improve the community. Almost everyone agrees that the money should be invested in building a new public facility. Which of the following do you think your local government should build?***

- Build a public library
- Build a public park
- Build a public pool

Use specific reasons and examples to support your essay. Be sure to use your own words. Do not use memorized examples.





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*Answer Key*



### **Integrated Writing Transcript**

*Many of the areas of cleared land referred to in the reading were once part of rainforests, and this unique ecosystem is in danger of disappearing because of deforestation. Even though there might be some short-term benefits for us today, the author of the reading has not considered the long-term consequences of these reckless actions.*

*In Brazil alone, nearly 60% of the rainforest has been cut for farming purposes. Even though it's true that the population is rising and there is a demand for more food, there are also alternative ways to farm that do not require such vast areas of land. Hydroponics, for example, is one farming technique that actually requires no soil at all. All the progress humanity has made in technology should not be focused on how to destroy more in less time, but on how to preserve what we have while looking at alternatives to outdated practices, like traditional farming.*

*Secondly, while it might be lucrative for a few people to make a lot of money on new residential developments, increases in short-term economic prosperity shouldn't be our main concern when considering whether or not to destroy an entire ecosystem. Deforestation displaces all the animals, insects, and plants that live in a forested area. And, more importantly, 28% of the world's oxygen is produced from rainforest ecosystems. We cannot be so irresponsible to clear away huge areas of precious rainforest just to make more money.*

*Finally, notice how the countries mentioned in the reading--Brazil, Thailand, and Indonesia--are all developing nations. The workers in the wood cutting industry are paid low wages to carry out dangerous jobs. The wood cutting business doesn't benefit the people, but the small group of business owners who organize these projects.*



### **Task #1: Integrated Writing**

The article introduces the topic of deforestation, which is the clearing and cutting down of trees in a large area. The writer says there are many benefits to deforestation. The lecturer disagrees. He says that deforestation has many consequences, and attacks each of the claims made in the reading.

First, the author says that cutting down trees creates farmlands now suitable for growing crops and raising livestock. The reading passage states that this provides more food for people and can benefit the economy. The professor believes there are flaws in the author's position. He contends that it is not necessary to destroy rainforests for land to farm. He goes on to say that there are advanced technologies that allow for alternative ways to farm without soil.

According to the writer, clearing the areas also provides residential space for people to live and work in; a concern as the population continues to increase. The speaker, on the other hand, points out that deforestation displaces the animals from the forest and destroys the plants which provide us with oxygen. He feels that this long-term cost is not worth the money people can make from residential developments on the land.

Also, the reading passage notes how cutting down trees is necessary for creating lumber, paper, and furniture, and that it is, therefore, an important source of income for many people. The professor rebuts this argument. He says that those who work in the wood cutting industry are actually paid very small wages. In fact, he claims deforestation does not benefit the workers at all, but rather the large company owners.

As you can see, the author and lecturer hold very different views on deforestation.



## **Task #2: Independent Writing**

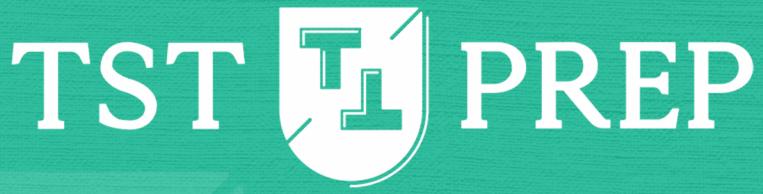
Large, luscious trees, fields of grass for sports and picnics, exotic flowers, and duck ponds with fountains and boats are all things you can experience in public parks. If my local government was deciding which to build, I think that they should build a public park over a public library or public pool. The reasons for this will be addressed in the following essay.

First of all, public parks are a great way for people to stay fit. There are trails for people to run around and sports fields for athletes to play in. In my own community, people need space to be more active. Right now, my neighbors go jogging or walk their dogs on the sidewalks next to a busy street. This is incredibly dangerous. Not only is a park more scenic, but it is also safer than trying to get exercise near a highway. I have also seen an outdoor workout station in the park of the next town over. I think my government should build a park with trails, fields, and exercise machines in order to provide a safe place for people to improve their fitness in my neighborhood.

Secondly, a public park in my community would be used all year round. Unlike a pool, which is only open in the summer, people use the park every season. Parks can be used for picnics, reunions, events, festivals, and concerts. In the town that I grew up in, I remember every autumn my parents would take my siblings and me to the park. The trees would be decorated with lights, and local businesses had tables set up where their merchandise could be sold. There was live music and dancing under the main pavilion. This fall festival drew in large crowds from all over the city and nearby towns. Since it can be utilized for so many things, at any time during the year, I think that a public park is the best choice for my local government to spend money on building.

I would recommend that my local government build a public park. Parks are a great way to get people more active in the community because they can walk, run, and workout in the park. I also think a park is the best option because parks can be used for a variety of events throughout the year that could be profitable for local businesses and the community.





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