



## Writing

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This fourth and final section of the TOEFL® iBT test evaluates your ability to express your ideas in clear, academic English. You will be asked to write two essays. In the first, the Integrated Writing Task, you will use information from a reading passage and a lecture. In the second essay, the Independent Writing Task, you will respond to a question or statement.



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**The Integrated Task vs. the Independent Task****The Integrated Task:**

You will *not* use your personal experience, knowledge, preferences, or opinions when you write the essay for this task.

**The Independent Task:**

You *will* use your own experience, opinions, preferences, and knowledge when you write the essay for this task.

Please see the following chart for more information about the differences between the Integrated and Independent Writing Tasks:

Writing Section			
Task	Based on	Writing Task	Length and Time Given to Write
Integrated Writing Task	A short reading selection (3 minutes)	Summarize the lecture.	About 150–225 words
	A related lecture (2 minutes)	Explain the relationship between the ideas in the lecture and those in the reading.	20 minutes
	Your notes taken while listening and reading		
Independent Writing Task	Your own experience, information, and opinions.	Express your opinion or preference in response to a statement or question.	A minimum of 300 words 30 minutes



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**Testing Sequence for the Writing Tasks**

As with all the parts of the test, you should be familiar with the format and the directions. Being prepared will help you be more confident and will help you do your best.



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**The Integrated Writing Task**

For the Integrated Writing Task, you will:

- read a short passage (3 minutes)
- listen to a related lecture (2 minutes)
- take brief notes while on both the reading and listening passages

Then, you will write a response (20 minutes, 150–225 words) that will:

- summarize the listening passage
- identify the specific ideas in the reading passage to which the listening passage relates and explain what the relationship is
- include **no** additional information such as your own opinions or evaluations



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**The Independent Writing Task**

For the Independent Writing Task, you will:

- read a short question or statement
- think about and briefly plan your answer

Then, you will write an essay (30 minutes, a minimum of 300 words) which will:

- state your opinion, preference, or evaluation
- be based entirely on your own opinions, ideas, and experiences

**Strategies for Success in Writing**

Utilizing the following general strategies will help you be more successful on the TOEFL® iBT Writing section:

**1. Know What the Directions Are**

On the day of the test, you should already know the directions for the sections of the test before they appear on the screen. If you are familiar with the directions, you may not need to read them again and can click to dismiss them immediately. Note, however, that this will not give you more time to work on the task.

**2. Use Your Time Wisely**

To make the most of your time:

- Take time to read, understand, and think about the writing question.
- Use the on-screen clock to always be aware of the time.
- Use all of the time allowed for the task. Do not finish early. Take any extra time you have left after completing your essay to check spelling, content (ideas), grammar, and punctuation.
- Know how much time you have left.

**3. Organize Your Writing Tasks**

In order to organize your essay:

- Take time to plan your essay briefly and then write quick notes or a very brief, simple outline.
- Write an introduction, a body, and a conclusion.
- Use logical transitions (*however, therefore, in contrast, to summarize, etc.*) between one idea and another, and between one paragraph of the essay and another.