

Magosh

# TOEFL Writing Templates

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# The Magoosh Team

## Who is Magoosh?

We are a group of passionate educators in Berkeley, California.



Email us at [help@magoosh.com](mailto:help@magoosh.com) if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions!

# What is Magoosh?

Magoosh is an [online TOEFL prep course](#) that offers:

- over 100 TOEFL video lessons
- 300+ practice questions
- material created by expert tutors
- e-mail support
- personalized statistics based on performance
- access anytime, anywhere from an internet-connected device

The screenshot shows the Magoosh dashboard. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Magoosh' logo and links for 'Dashboard', 'Lessons', 'Practice', 'Review', 'Resources', 'Help', and 'Account'. The main content area is titled 'Dashboard' and includes a 'Suggested Lessons' sidebar with links for TOEFL overview, essay format, and grammar. The 'Quick Practice' section features buttons for 'Practice Reading' (27 questions left), 'Practice Listening' (40 questions left), 'Practice Speaking' (15 questions left), and 'Practice Writing' (0 questions left). Below this is a 'Results Summary' section with a table of performance metrics for each skill.

	Reading	Listening	Speaking	Writing
Correct	82%	75%	100%	100%
Incorrect	18%	25%	0%	0%
Questions Answered	57	28	9	10
Your Pace	1:02	3:08	5:31	0:11
Others' Pace	1:22	1:51	4:13	9:08

Featured in



## Why Our Students Love Us

These are survey responses sent to us by students after they took the TOEFL. All of these students and many more have used the [Magoosh TOEFL prep course](#) to improve their scores!



<b>What was your overall score on the actual TOEFL?</b>	102
<b>What was your reading score?</b>	27
<b>What was your listening score?</b>	23
<b>What was your speaking score?</b>	24
<b>What was your writing score?</b>	28
<b>How did Magoosh help you?</b>	I used it to find how the flow and the structure of the test is like. I did not have a lot of time to prepare for the test so reading the official ETS book was not advisable. I wanted something quick, interactive and not too pricey. I am glad that I turned to Magoosh! The videos, especially on the writing section gave really good tips and I am proud to say, it is the section that I scored the highest!



<b>What was your overall score on the actual TOEFL?</b>	103
<b>What was your reading score?</b>	26
<b>What was your listening score?</b>	25
<b>What was your speaking score?</b>	24
<b>What was your writing score?</b>	28
<b>How did Magoosh help you?</b>	Magoosh TOEFL is really good and i especially loved the reading and listening questions.



<b>What was your overall score on the actual TOEFL?</b>	110
<b>What was your reading score?</b>	27
<b>What was your listening score?</b>	27
<b>What was your speaking score?</b>	28
<b>What was your writing score?</b>	28
<b>How did Magoosh help you?</b>	<p>Primarily, Magoosh taught me the test much faster than I ever would if I had to do it by myself. Considering I had very little time, and that I had very good experience with Magoosh previously with their GRE product, I thought I'd give it a go. From the time I had registered, I had about 3 weeks to my TOEFL.??</p> <p>Being a non-native speaker, it helps to have your academic background in English medium--which I did. So, what I needed was to learn the TOEFL i.e. the test pattern, the kind of questions, how to practice (especially note-taking!), what counts as a good answer, etc. Mr. Lucas Fink of Magoosh did a great job at breaking every section down and explaining the best ways to prepare for and tackle them. Additionally, it was nice to see they had quite a lot of well-made grammar lessons to help those not quite as adept in English, especially in their sentence-making.</p> <p>Although many tend to overlook the need to learn the test, I believe it is crucial to anyone who wants to attain a good score. And for that, I highly recommend prepping with Magoosh. They have helped me familiarize with and understand the TOEFL very quickly--all from the comfort of my home.</p>

## How to Use Templates

First, a note on the word “template.” You may be looking for a full response that you can memorize, simply adding in small details as you write. Unfortunately, that’s not a good idea. If you memorize whole sentences that other students also memorized and used, you will get a 0 on the writing section. You cannot simply give a whole answer from memory.

But you **can** use specific words and phrases to structure your essays. If you know a few phrases to start your response, a few to move on to the next idea, and a few to end each thought, then you can better organize your essays. Well organized essays score more highly because they’re easier to understand.

So learn the words and phrases we provide you, and start using them in your TOEFL writing practice. The more you practice using them, the easier they will be to remember and use on test day.

After the key phrases for each task, there is a sample essay that shows one way you could use the phrases. That will help you to understand the overall structure of your answers.

Happy studying!

Lucas  
*Magoosh TOEFL Expert*

## Integrated Essay

The first TOEFL essay is “integrated,” which means it includes listening and reading, not just writing. You have to first read a short article (around 300 words in three minutes), then listen to a short lecture (around 2 minutes). In both the reading and the lecture, you will hear three clearly separate points. They are often listed, using words like “first,” and “second.” The same ideas will be addressed in both the reading and the lecture, but they will disagree with each other. (Sometimes, they agree with each other but this is rare). In order to write a good essay, you need to make clear the differences between the reading and the lecture, and clearly separate the three points that are addressed.

Although it is possible to write a conclusion to this essay, it is unnecessary, so we will not include summary phrases in this part.

### **Phrases for the Integrated Essay**

#### **Naming the source**

- According to [the text/professor]...
- The [text/professor] says that...
- The [text/professor] states that...
- In the [lecture], it was said that...

#### **Listing**

- ..., for one.
- First,... Second,...
- The first point that the professor makes is... , The second point [he/she] addresses is...
- Besides that,...
- Moreover,...
- What’s more,...
- Next,...
- There’s also the fact that...
- Furthermore,...
- Additionally,...
- Finally,...

#### **Giving examples**

- For example,...
- For instance,...
- [The professor] provides the example of [noun]...
- [The professor] elaborates on this by explaining...

#### **Reporting the professor’s opinion**

- [The professor] believes that...

- [The professor] disagrees with the text in that...
- [He/she] points out that...
- [He/she] refutes [this point] by noting that...
- [He/she] contradicts [this point] by saying that...
- [He/she] explains that...

### Showing a contrast

- On the other hand,...
- Meanwhile,...
- In contrast to [the lecture/the reading]...
- However,...

### Clarifying

- That is,...
- In other words,...

### Sample Essay

**In contrast to the reading passage**, which emphasizes the qualities of Rococo art that led to its critical dismissal, **the lecturer focuses on** redeeming characteristics of the style. **The professor disagrees with the text about** the significance of the art's aristocratic audience, subject matter, and use of elaborate decoration.

**The passage explains that** Rococo art was often created for aristocratic buyers who ignored the poor, but social changes in Europe created an environment that was hostile toward those who catered to the ruling class. **However, the professor points out that** most art throughout history was actually created for wealthy patrons; Rococo art is not totally unique in that regard. **What's more**, she mentions that Rococo artists sometimes worked on public places, like churches, which were clearly not designed for the wealthy alone.

**The second point that the professor makes** has to do with the subject matter of Rococo art. **According to the text**, Rococo style was interested in simple leisure and decoration rather than deep philosophical ideas. **However, the professor contradicts this by saying** that Rococo artists put subtlety and sophistication into their work. **She gives an example of** a painting that depicts three people whose relationships can be inferred just by the details of their facial expressions and postures. **She believes that** this shows unexpected depth.

**Finally, in contrast to the reading passage's claim that** Rococo style is too elaborate, the professor reminds the students that this is a purely subjective point. Others appreciate the more difficult techniques and experimentation used in the paintings.



## Independent Essay

The second TOEFL essay is “independent,” which means it requires no outside information. You only write—no listening or reading first. That means you write about your own ideas and opinions. Of course, phrases to express opinions are very important. You also must explain your opinions, so you have to give reasons and examples. It is important to clearly note that you are giving an example or reason when you start to do so.

I recommend structuring your essay into four paragraphs: introduction, reason one, reason two, and conclusion. Although it is possible to write a good essay with another structure, this structure is easiest to follow, and that allows you to spend more time thinking about your vocabulary and grammar, which are very important.

Whereas the integrated essay can look like a list, with “first,” and “second,” at the start of each paragraph, it’s better not to list so clearly in the independent essay. Good writers don’t need to list every time they write! Try to use other transitions, like those given below.

### **Phrases for the Independent Essay**

#### **Expressing your opinion**

- I am of the opinion that...
- I believe that...
- The statement in question is [true/false/sensible/problematic] because...
- I [agree/disagree] with the provided statement because...

#### **Giving Examples**

- For example,...
- Take, for example, [*noun*].
- For instance,...
- If..., say,...
- ..., such as...

#### **Introducing a reason**

- This is primarily because...
- The reason for this is that...
- After all,...

#### **Moving on to another reason**

- What’s more,...
- Moreover,...
- Additionally,...

- There is also the fact that...

### Adding emphasis

- In fact,...
- Of course,...
- Indeed,...
- Clearly,...

### Making a statement based on a reason

- Because of that,...
- As a result,...
- For this reason,...
- Due to that fact,...
- As such,...

### Showing a contrast

- On the other hand,...
- Meanwhile,...
- However,...
- In contrast,...

### Clarifying

- That is,...
- In other words,...

### Concluding

- Essentially, ...
- To put it briefly, ...
- In all, ...
- As mentioned,...

### Sample Essay

Some people suggest that affording children over fifteen the right to vote would lead to a better society. **After all**, the more voices are heard in a democracy, the more legitimacy elected leaders have. Be that as it may, **I believe that** society would actually be worse off if fifteen-year-olds were allowed to vote. Teenagers are too immature to vote, and often simply copy the preferences of their parents.

**First and foremost**, fifteen, is simply put, not very old. Children at that age lack the emotional maturity needed to make intelligent decisions when voting. They often feel passionately about a topic one day only to have their interest fizzle out the next; **clearly**, that causes problems when the decisions made affect people throughout society. **Moreover**, fifteen-year-olds lack the sophistication needed to distinguish between truly valuable causes and those that are

merely exciting. Politicians would simply speak to the emotions of the younger voters during speeches, and teenagers might vote for frivolous policies, **such as** longer school vacations. **However**, voting should not be taken so lightly—no choice, arguably, could be of more importance.

**I also believe** it would be a mistake to allow fifteen-year-olds to vote because they are likely to simply copy the preferences of their parents. **For example**, during elections, voters are often influenced by economic factors, such as promises to provide tax breaks, the expansion of social aid programs. But fifteen-year-olds are not economically independent. Their financial situations depend on those of their parents. **For this reason**, their parents would influence them to vote to most help the family financially, which is not honest democracy. To make matters worse, politicians would realize that families usually vote in the same way, and start emphasizing policies helping families at the expense of other interest groups in order to get their votes. **For instance**, politicians might promise to raise money for schools by taxing businesses. This would effectively give parents a disproportionately large influence.

**Essentially**, there is a good reason that virtually no country on the planet allows people who are so young to vote. They have yet to mature into responsible tax-paying citizens. **As mentioned**, their interests are fickle, and not aligned with what is best for society as a whole. It would be a mistake to give them influence in the democratic process.

## **Additional Resources**

Need more TOEFL help? Check out these free resources.

## Study Plans

Whether you're planning to study for a long time, or you've waited until the last minute, it helps to add some structure to your TOEFL study plan to keep you organized and on track. Planning out a study schedule is the key first step in scoring well on the TOEFL.

To help take the guesswork out of all of this, we've created some schedules to help you get started.

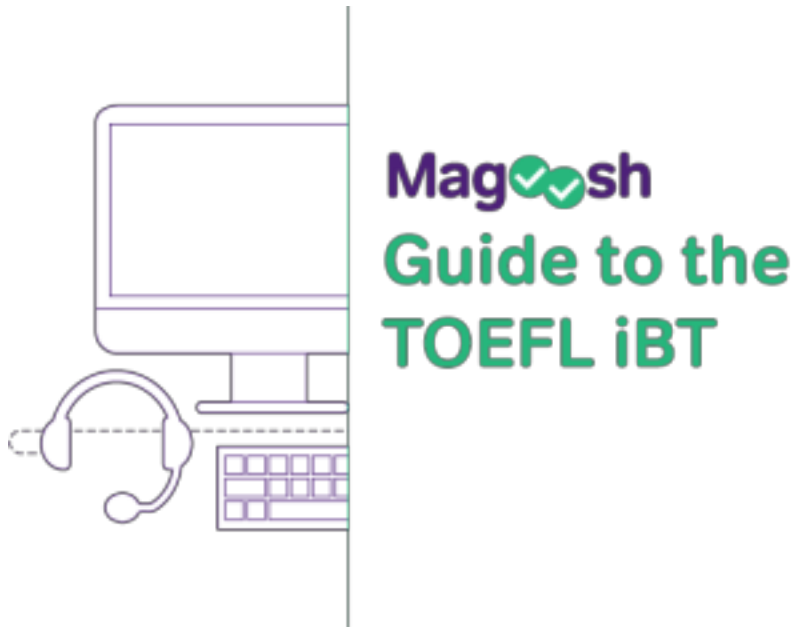
- [Two-Week Study Schedule](#)
- [One Month Study Schedule](#)
- [Preparing for the TOEFL in 20-30 Minutes per Day](#)



Pro-tip: Before getting started with your study plan, we recommend reading our top tips for [making the most of your TOEFL study schedule](#).

## [\[eBook\] Magoosh's Guide to the TOEFL iBT](#)

This is the ultimate TOEFL resource — a guide that can help both beginning students learning about the TOEFL iBT for the first time *and* advanced students looking for strategies and extra TOEFL practice to boost their score.



### **What to expect from this eBook:**

This 150+ page eBook covers all aspects of your TOEFL iBT preparation. It:

- Explains the format of each section of the TOEFL iBT
- Covers every type of question the TOEFL could ask
- Provides proven strategies for each question type
- Includes practice problems and explanations to help you along
- AND provides additional resources for continued studying

Did we mention that this TOEFL eBook is completely FREE?

## Vocabulary Resources

Learning vocabulary helps with every aspect of the exam - speaking, reading, listening, and writing! So, you should make some time in your schedule to work on your vocabulary. Here are some resources to help!

### [Free Vocabulary Flashcards](#)

Use these free flashcards to master the 200 most important words on the exam.



### [\[eBook\] TOEFL Vocabulary Comics](#)

In this eBook, we help you memorize and review vocabulary words with the help of mnemonic devices. To make these words more fun and memorable, these mnemonics are illustrated with entertaining comics, like this one:

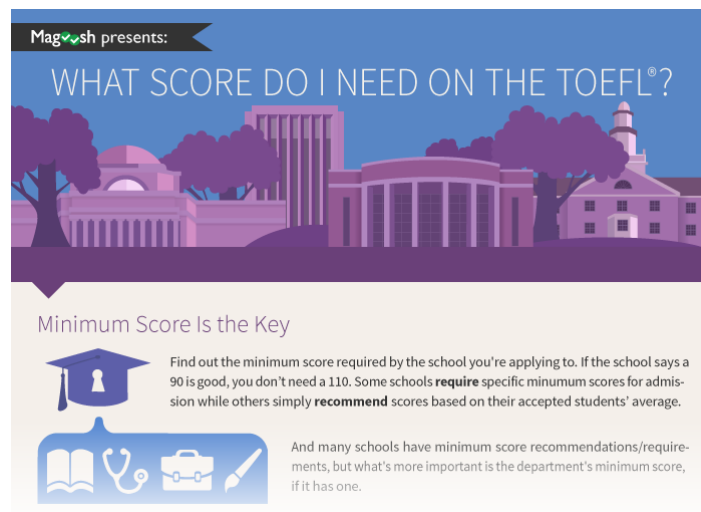


## Infographics

Here at Magoosh, we *love* to make infographics -- they're both fun and educational! Here are our two TOEFL infographics:

### [TOEFL Scores for Top Universities](#)

What score do you need on the exam? In this graphic, we provide the required scores for many of the top universities in the US. See the entire infographic [here](#).



### [TOEFL Speaking](#)

If you need more help figuring out the speaking section, be sure to check this one out!





## Book Reviews

There are many TOEFL review books on the market that promise to give you “the key” to acing the TOEFL. That’s a big promise!

And while it’s true that many of these books provide excellent strategies and tips for TOEFL success, the real “key” to acing the TOEFL is experience with English learned through repeated practice.

So, which books provide the best resources, the best strategies, and the best practice? Check out our book reviews and find the books that are right for you.

To make your life a little bit easier, we’ve organized our reviews in order from most to least highly recommended. Click on each link for more detailed reviews!

### Recommended

- [The Official Guide to the TOEFL Test \(4th Edition\)](#)
- [Official TOEFL iBT Tests](#)
- [The Complete Guide to the TOEFL Test](#)
- [Cambridge Preparation for the TOEFL Test](#)

### Okay

- [Barron’s TOEFL iBT](#)
- [Delta’s Key to the TOEFL iBT Advanced Skill Practice](#)
- [Oxford TOEFL](#)

### Not Recommended

- [Kaplan TOEFL iBT Premier 2014](#)
- [The Princeton Review’s Cracking the TOEFL iBT \(2014\)](#)

**And that's the end!**

**If you liked these templates, sign up for [Magoosh TOEFL](#).  
Prep smart, go far. Enjoy the ride.**

**Happy studying!**