

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*. This *TWE Scoring Guide* is almost used as a rubric for a summative score because it doesn't specifically identify strengths and weaknesses:

### **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.