

# TOEFL iBT®

## Writing for an Academic Discussion Rubrics

SCORE	DESCRIPTION
5	<p><b>A fully successful response</b></p> <p>The response is a relevant and very clearly expressed contribution to the online discussion, and it demonstrates consistent facility in the use of language.</p> <p>A typical response displays the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relevant and well-elaborated explanations, exemplifications, and/or details</li><li>• Effective use of a variety of syntactic structures and precise, idiomatic word choice</li><li>• Almost no lexical or grammatical errors other than those expected from a competent writer writing under timed conditions (e.g., common typos or common misspellings or substitutions like there/their)</li></ul>
4	<p><b>A generally successful response</b></p> <p>The response is a relevant contribution to the online discussion, and facility in the use of language allows the writer's ideas to be easily understood.</p> <p>A typical response displays the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relevant and adequately elaborated explanations, exemplifications, and/or details</li><li>• A variety of syntactic structures and appropriate word choice</li><li>• Few lexical or grammatical errors</li></ul>
3	<p><b>A partially successful response</b></p> <p>The response is a mostly relevant and mostly understandable contribution to the online discussion, and there is some facility in the use of language.</p> <p>A typical response displays the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elaboration in which part of an explanation, example, or detail may be missing, unclear, or irrelevant</li><li>• Some variety in syntactic structures and a range of vocabulary</li><li>• Some noticeable lexical and grammatical errors in sentence structure, word form, or use of idiomatic language</li></ul>
2	<p><b>A mostly unsuccessful response</b></p> <p>The response reflects an attempt to contribute to the online discussion, but limitations in the use of language may make ideas hard to follow.</p> <p>A typical response displays the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ideas that may be poorly elaborated or only partially relevant</li><li>• A limited range of syntactic structures and vocabulary</li><li>• An accumulation of errors in sentence structure, word forms, or use</li></ul>
1	<p><b>An unsuccessful response</b></p> <p>The response reflects an ineffective attempt to contribute to the online discussion, and limitations in the use of language may prevent the expression of ideas.</p> <p>A typical response may display the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Words and phrases that indicate an attempt to address the task but with few or no coherent ideas</li><li>• Severely limited range of syntactic structures and vocabulary</li><li>• Serious and frequent errors in the use of language</li><li>• Minimal original language; any coherent language is mostly borrowed from the stimulus</li></ul>
0	<p><b>The response is blank, rejects the topic, is not in English, is entirely copied from the prompt, is entirely unconnected to the prompt, or consists of arbitrary keystrokes.</b></p>