**TOEFL Speaking, Overview and Question 1**

**In 2019, the TOEFL went from 6 speaking questions to 4. In this post, I will review these types and provide templates where applicable.**

**I.Our Plan for Practice.** First, let’s talk about a plan to practice the speaking section. Many students learn the 4 types and just practice it with the timed that is given. This is not a good idea. Why? They never get good at it because they are too focused on the time limit. In any thing you first learn, you don’t try to do it fast. A basketball player doesn’t try to do a layup fast. It is impossible at first. The player learns the moves slowly and then gets faster over time. That is what I want you to do. Just any practice doesn’t make perfect. No one is perfect but practicing it right does make you really good. So here is our plan for practicing the speaking section:

**We will practice these in 4 steps:**

1.Practice the organization, (the topic sentence and 2 reasons).

2.Practice the time for the organization. (prepare for 2 minutes and record in 45 seconds).

3.Practice the support.

4.Practice the time for all of it. (shorten the time for it all).

**Let’s do question one. We will just do the organization first. Then we will get the organization faster and then we will add support and then we will practice all of it faster.**

**So to question 1.**

**II.Question 1: Paired Response**

**A.Brief Explanation. Question 1 is called paired response because there are two options. Here is an example of a paired response.** Sometimes students have to write papers. Sometimes they have to give oral presentations. Which activity do you think is better for students and why? Include details and examples to support your explanation.

* 15 seconds to prepare
* 45 seconds to respond

**B.Two ways to organize question 1.**

**ONE WAY is to do the following and this is THE way I am going to use because it helps you not have to create as much support.**

* Topic sentence: Copy the question and the rules I will give you for creating the topic sentence.
* Give a transition (first of all), your first reason + support
* Then transition (in addition), explain your second reason and support.

**A SECOND WAY to organize it is to do the following:**

* Topic sentence: Copy the question and follow our rules for creating the topic sentence.
* Describe the answer in 2 sentences.
* Then explain your reason.
* Support your reason.

Note: You can give a concluding sentence if you need something else. I would spend the time on support though. **We are going to do the FIRST WAY because it is usually easier for students.**

**C. A basic template. We are NOT going to do the support today. We are just going to do the 1st sentence and the 2 reasons.**

**Basic template for organization and later we will add support:**

1.In my opinion it is better to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2.For me,

3.Also,

**D. A more detailed template. So now let’s look at each of these sentences in more detail.**

**1.The Topic sentence. Here are your possibilities for the topic sentence.** PLEASE CHOOSE ONE and ALWAYS USE IT.

**It is better for person/people to**

Example: It is better for students to write a paper than to give a speech.

**In my opinion, it is better to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(verb)**

Example: In my opinion, it is better to write a speech than to give a speech.

**In my opinion, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is better. (Use ing as subject)**

Example: In my opinion, writing a paper is better than giving a speech. OR In myopinion, it is better to write a paper than to give a speech.

**In my opinion, it is better to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(verb)**

**I prefer TO**

Example: I prefer to write a paper than to give a speech.

**2.The second sentence is your first reason. I would use an informal transition like “well, for me” instead of a formal transition like “one reason or first.”**

**3. The next sentence for organization is your 2nd reason.** I would just use “also” for that transition.

**Here is an example of the 3 sentences what you should record:**

In my opinion, it is better to write a speech than to give a speech. For me, writing a speech gives me time to think and organize. Also, I can rewrite and improve what I have written.

**III. Let’s Practice. Read the question and then give yourself 1 minute to prepare your topic sentence and 2 reasons. The topic sentence should be easier because you chose it earlier.**

1.Sometimes students have to write papers. Sometimes they have to give oral presentations. Which activity do you think is better for students and why? Include details and examples to support your explanation.

2.Some people eat their main meal of the day around noon. Others have their main meal in the evening. What time of day do you think is better and why? Include details and examples to support your explanation.

3. Some people take one long vacation each year. Others take several short vacations. Which do you prefer and why? Include details and examples to support your explanation.

4.Some people like going to large parties where there are many people they don’t know. Other people prefer small parties with a few close friends. Which type of party do you prefer and why? Include details and examples to support your explanation.