**TOEFL, Integrated Writing**

**With this handout, let’s look at the basics of what an integrated writing is, how to take notes for that task, and how to organize the task. Then we will end with a practice integrated writing for you to do.**

**I.The Basics of What an Integrated Writing is.**

In the integrated writing section, you will get a reading passage that you will have 3 minutes to read.Then, you will listen to a lecture about the same topic. After you hear that lecture, you will write aboutthe relationships between what the reading says and what the writing says about the same topic.Usually, the listening passage contradicts what is in the reading passage.

**II.Taking Notes on the Reading and Listening Passages** Now, it is important to know how to take notes to the reading passage and then to the listening passage.

**A.First, the Reading Passage.**

So what should you take notes on?

1.The points in the passage. There are typically 3 main points in the reading passage. You want to take notes on them because those will be the same points for the listening passage and taking notes for the reading passage will help you do better in listening.

2. Next, vocabulary from the reading that you could use in writing. You want to take notes on difficult vocabulary words because you will probably come across those words in the listening passage and if you understand the meaning from the reading passage, it will greatly help you when writing.

3.Third, any specific details that you might not know that could be in the listening. You want to take notes on the details because those same details or similar details are likely to show up in the listening passage.

**B.The Listening Passage. You will then listen to a lecture on the reading. What should you take notes on?**

1.The connection between the reading and listening. The listening usually contradicts the reading. It is very important to make sure you can identity the relationship which typically is contradicting or casting doubt on the reading.

2.The main points. These will be the same as the reading and in order so you should know them before you listen.

3.The details. You have to listen carefully for the details of each point because those are typically the hardest and what can set you apart from others who take the test.

**III.Organization of the Essay. There are two ways to organize the essay:**

**A.Text by Text.**

In this method, you write a short introduction, one paragraph about what thereading says, one paragraph about what the speaker says and then a brief conclusion. I wouldn’t do thisone unless you are sure you will be able to write enough detail for the listening passage. I wouldchoose option 2.

**B. Point by Point.**

In this 2nd way or organizing, you have a long paragraph when you write. Here isthe organization for that long paragraph:

1.Topic sentence. The relations should be in this sentence. It usually is contradicts.

2.1st point from listening and then support for that point from the listening. Then 1 sentence to explain what was in the reading passage.

1. 2nd point from listening and then support for that point from the listening. Then there is 1 sentence to explain what was in the reading passage.
2. 3rd point from listening and then support for that point from the listening. There is 1 sentence again to explain what was in the reading passage.
3. Concluding sentence. This sentence emphasizes the relationship again but instead of using contradicts, you could use casts doubt on.

**III.Sample Essay. Let’s now practice. This sample is from ETS’s old site.**

**READING** Time: 3 minutes

Toward the end of his life, the Chevalier de Seingalt (1725−1798) wrote a long memoir recounting his life and adventures. The Chevalier was a somewhat controversial figure, but since he met many famous people, including kings and writers, his memoir has become a valuable historical source about European society in the eighteenth century. However, some critics have raised doubts about the accuracy of the memoir. They claim that the Chevalier distorted or invented many events in the memoir to make his life seem more exciting and glamorous than it really was. For example, in his memoir the Chevalier claims that while living in Switzerland, he was very wealthy, and it is known that he spent a great deal of money there on parties and gambling. However, evidence has recently surfaced that the Chevalier borrowed considerable sums of money from a Swiss merchant. Critics thus argue that if the Chevalier had really been very rich, he would not have needed to borrow money. Critics are also skeptical about the accuracy of the conversations that the Chevalier records in the memoir between himself and the famous writer Voltaire. No one doubts that the Chevalier and Voltaire met and conversed. However, critics complain that the memoir cannot possibly capture these conversations accurately, because it was written many years after the conversations occurred. Critics point out that it is impossible to remember exact phrases from extended conversations held many years earlier. Critics have also questioned the memoir’s account of the Chevalier’s escape from a notorious prison in Venice, Italy. He claims to have escaped the Venetian prison by using a piece of metal to make a hole in the ceiling and climbing through the roof. Critics claim that while such a daring escape makes for enjoyable reading, it is more likely that the Chevalier’s jailers were bribed to free him. They point out that the Chevalier had a number of politically well-connected friends in Venice who could have offered a bribe.

**Please take notes to the reading here:**

**Listening: Please click on the link below and take notes to the listening here.** <https://www.ets.org/c/17722/audio/vol_3/track11rlwlistn.mp3> After you take notes, you can share them with me if you would like me to check them. Next, I will share the sample I wrote for this topic.