

TOEFL SAMPLE INTEGRATED TASK

The reading and the listening passage discuss about communal online encyclopedia. According to the author, online encyclopedia has several demerits. On the contrary, the lecturer contradicts with this viewpoints mentioned in the passage and he gives the three reasons.

First, the author claims that online encyclopedias has not correct information. However, the lecturer disagrees with statement and he says that online encyclopedia gets accurate information, but if there is any mistake or error then it can be corrected easily, whereas this correction is not possible in traditional encyclopedias.

Second, the article states that there are many chances to putting wrong information and deleting important information in online encyclopedia. On the other hand, the speaker opposes this viewpoint saying that there are not any chances to disturb with online encyclopedia because they hire strategists who do monitor and protect the online encyclopedia from the hackers.

Third, the reading passage says that giving equal importance for all important information but traditional encyclopedias have only important topics. In contrast, the lecturer does not believe this notion because he says that online encyclopedias has not space limit and it has limitless storage that's why all important articles and information can be found but traditional encyclopedias have limited space for storing information.

Comment [benchmark1]: various

Comment [benchmark2]: based on

Comment [benchmark3]: traditional

Comment [benchmark4]: are more reliable than online ones because the former are written by trained experts

Comment [benchmark5]: this view

Comment [benchmark6]: encyclopedias are more trustworthy because

Comment [benchmark7]: it

Comment [benchmark8]: to make corrections

Comment [benchmark9]: and the errors may remain for several years

Comment [benchmark10]: of

Comment [benchmark11]: one

Comment [benchmark12]: the articles are always in a read-only format which does not allow anyone to make any changes to them. In addition, there are always editors to

Comment [benchmark13]: online encyclopedias give

Comment [benchmark14]: to

Comment [benchmark15]: types of

Comment [benchmark16]: thinks

Comment [benchmark17]: have unlimited

Comment [benchmark18]: that is

REPORT

Word length 208

Comments

The candidate has recovered important pieces of information mentioned in the lecture and conveyed relevant connection to the reading passage. However, frequent mistakes in grammar and sentence formation cause difficulty while reading the response. In addition, word choice could be better at some places. Overall, the task response needs further improvement

Advice

1. Pay more attention to grammar and improve complex sentences.
2. Need to improve word choice.
3. Always proofread the report after finishing it

Estimated Raw Score: 3.0

Reading Passage:

Communal online encyclopedias represent one of the latest resources to be found on the Internet. They are in many respects like traditional printed encyclopedias collections of articles on various subjects. What is specific to these online encyclopedias, however, is that any Internet user can contribute a new article or make an editorial change in an existing one. As a result, the encyclopedia is authored by the whole community of Internet users. The idea might sound attractive, but the communal online encyclopedias have several important problems that make them much less valuable than traditional, printed encyclopedias.

First, contributors to a communal online encyclopedia often lack academic credentials, thereby making their contributions partially informed at best and downright inaccurate in many cases. Traditional encyclopedias are written by trained experts who adhere to standards of academic rigor that non specialists cannot really achieve.

Second, even if the original entry in the online encyclopedia is correct, the communal nature of these online encyclopedias gives unscrupulous users and vandals or hackers the opportunity to fabricate, delete, and corrupt information in the encyclopedia. Once changes have been made to the original text, an unsuspecting user cannot tell the entry has been tampered with. None of this is possible with a traditional encyclopedia.

Third, the communal encyclopedias focus too frequently, and in too great a depth, on trivial and popular topics, which creates a false impression of what is important and what is not. A child doing research for a school project may discover that a major historical event receives as much attention in an online encyclopedia as, say, a single long-running television program. The traditional encyclopedia provides a considered view of what topics to include or exclude and contains a sense of proportion that online "democratic" communal encyclopedias do not.

Listening Tapescript

The communal online encyclopedia will probably never be perfect, but that's a small price to pay for what it does offer. The criticisms in the reading are largely the result of prejudice against and ignorance about how far online encyclopedias have come.

First, errors. It's hardly a fair criticism that encyclopedias online have errors. Traditional encyclopedias have never been close to perfectly accurate, if you are looking for a really comprehensive reference work without any mistakes, you are not going to find it, on or off line. The real point is that it's easy for errors in factual material to be corrected in an online encyclopedia. But with the printed and bound encyclopedia, the errors remain for decades.

Second, hacking. Online encyclopedias have recognized the importance of protecting their articles from malicious hackers. One strategy they started using is to put the crucial facts in the articles that nobody disputes in a read-only format, which is a format that no one can make changes to. That way you are making sure that the crucial facts in the articles are reliable. Another strategy that's being used is to have special editors whose job is to monitor all changes made to the articles and eliminate those changes that are clearly malicious.

Third, what's worth knowing about? The problem for traditional encyclopedias is that they have limited space, so they have to decide what's important and what's not. And in practice, the judgments of the group of academics that make these decisions don't reflect the great range of interests that people really have. But space is definitely not an issue for online encyclopedias. The academic articles are still represented in online encyclopedias, but there can be a great variety of articles and topics that accurately reflect the great diversity of users' interests. The diversity of use in topics that online encyclopedias offer is one of their strongest advantages