

## TOEFL Writing Integrated task Sample 2

### **Reading Passage (Reading time: 3 minutes)**

The chemical compound, ethanol, has risen in recent years as the most viable alternative to fossil fuels. Ethanol is a renewable fuel made from crops, mainly from corn in the United States, which can power engines. There are many who argue that corn ethanol should replace fossil fuel gas as the primary source for running cars.

One major benefit of using corn ethanol is that it uses less energy than gasoline. Using less energy means that people can get better gas mileage while driving these more fuel-efficient cars. In the long-run, this will be cheaper for consumers because they can drive further than they do now with fossil-fueled cars. People will spend less money on gas because they won't have to stop to fill up as frequently.

Another advantage of switching to corn ethanol is that it helps the American economy become less reliant on energy sources from other countries. Petroleum is not readily available in the U.S., so it must be imported from other countries. Depending on foreign relations with those countries, fuel becomes a political issue. Corn is a crop that America has in abundance. By using corn ethanol instead, the cost of gas will decrease because now the import taxes on fossil fuels are calculated into the price. This also means that we will be putting the money into our own economy, thus helping local corn farmers.

One of the most attractive aspects of corn ethanol is how environmentally friendly is when compared to current automobile gasoline. Fossil fuels release carbon that has been stored for years from the earth. Burning biofuels, like corn ethanol, is better for the environment because it releases less greenhouse gas emissions. Lessening the amount of carbon emissions will help prevent global warming and all of the other negative effects of climate change.

### **Link of the lecture:**

<https://s3.us-west-1.wasabisys.com/article-audio/01.20-bonus-integrated-lecture-corn-ethanol.mp3>

### **Question:**

**Summarize the points made in the lecture and explain how the speaker casts doubt on specific points made in the reading passage.**

### **Sample Answer:**

The article states about corn-based ethanol and the advantages it as an alternative energy source, compared to fossil fuels. A suggestion to switch from fossil fuels is also there to which the lecturer disagrees. He contradicts each claim of the reading passage with reasons.

The reading passage begins with a comparison of corn ethanol and fossil fuels. The drivers can get a better gas mileage if they switch to corn ethanol, which can be an affordable option too.

The speaker of the listening material, on the other side, disagrees and directly claims that corn ethanol will be much expensive. Also, he mentioned that ethanol gas prices will increase as it costs much to create and distribute this bio-fuel. Therefore, in any way, it will not be a cheaper alternative for consumers.

The passage also mentions that the switch to corn ethanol can help the American economy because of the US' dependency on oil from foreign. The speaker of the excerpt indicates that flaws in it as mass use of corn-based ethanol will increase the competition and hurt the economy. The price of corn may also rise here.

Additionally, the author suggests corn ethanol can be a good alternative to traditional gasoline because of its eco- friendly nature compared to fossil fuels. The professor raised doubts, as more farmlands will be required to support the demands of corn to produce corn-based ethanol. As a result, there will be more carbon absorption, which is not at all environment-friendly.

So, the view of the author and the lecturer are not the same.