

Model level 5 TOEFL Integrated Writing answer

In the passage, the author argues that comics are an art form that is unique to the United States, but has been borrowed by other countries. The speaker corrects many things the author wrote about comics being an American art form. Although the writing says all scholars agree that comics are uniquely American, the lecturer says that in modern times, very few scholars agree with that.

The speaker then points out that, contrary to the writing, the first popular comic strips were not American. According to the speaker, 100 years before the first American comic strip, there were popular comic strips in Europe. The lecture also states that *Hogan's Alley*, the 1890s comic strip described as American in the article, is not completely American because the comic characters were not Americans. Moreover, the publisher and creator of the comic were immigrants from other countries.

Additionally, the speaker disagrees with the article's claim that American comic book *Superman* was the first popular comic book. Instead, the lecturer says the Belgian comic book *Tintin* was popular before Superman. Also, the author points out that Superman's creator is Canadian, not American as the article says.

Finally, the speaker disagrees that American cartoon art influenced international comics, as claimed in the writing. He says that popular European comics have a uniquely European style. He also argues that Japanese comics are influenced more by traditional Asian art. Finally, the speaker notes that even American Disney comics characters are drawn by European artists.

Commentary

Per the official TOEFL Integrated Writing rubric, this answer would get a score of 5. It outlines all the main points from the lecture. It explains how each main point contradicts or challenges the main ideas from the reading. It is organized well, with good transition words for each paragraph. It has no major errors, using correct grammar and vocabulary. The writing does not express the test-takers opinion.

Source: <https://magoosh.com/toefl/toefl-integrated-writing-complete-guide/#model>