

Statement of purpose /Focus and Organization	Evidence/Elaboration	Conventions
1	1	2

Did you know that it took two people 19 days 21 hours and 43 min to go around the world in a hot air balloon? They had to have the right equipment to do it. They were also lucky to have good weather. However it may sound cool it is really dangerous. Some times people die from riding in hot air balloons.

No clear Purpose statement

First, There is a jet stream called the Swiss Alps. It is at an altitude of 9114 meters. It flows from west to east. This is perfect for going around the world. This speeds up the process a lot more than doing it the traditional way. The traditional way would have taken as twice as long as the regular way.

Second, the balloons have a lot of new technology to them. They also have a lot of parts to them. The helium cell provides the main lift for the balloon. The external layer keeps all of the heat inside so that when there up high and the temperature drops the gear inside was protected. The things inside of the balloon are pretty important for it to fly.

No consistent addressing the prompt throughout. Random ideas are distributed

Lastly, it is very dangerous. Once a person named Fosset actually hit the ground when he was fling around the world. This means that there was something wrong with his balloon. This could be a big safety concern for people that go around the world on hot air balloons. They could easily get hurt.

In conclusion, there are things you could do to make your trip in an hot air balloon faster. Balloons also have a lot of new technology in them. Finally if you make one mistake on a balloon it could be very bad. Hot air Balloons are very interesting. You should consider to ride in one.

This informational sample from a sixth grader does not address the topic, and does not sustain a reasonable, consistent focus on the writing prompt. There are transitions present, but no real attempt to cover the material adequately. Conventions are adequate throughout and there are no patterns of errors that distract the reader.

Statement of purpose /Focus and Organization	Evidence/ Elaboration	Conventions
1	1	1

Emma

Around the world in 14 days. Two adverurers footed in to history. Air craft's and difrences and how they work.

Around the world in 14 days. After five failed attempts Steve Fossett made the world record. He was the first person to fly a balloon around the world. 58 years old millionaire adventure finally sceeded. He ended is record at 14 day flight on July 2,2002 in a really dusty riverbed. No more long distance balloon trips he assures us, in fact he says that his balloon flights had been the most dangerous thing he's ever done.

On March 19,1999 the balloon boys. Two adventures footed in to history and exploration's last great records. Bertrand Piccard,41, of Switzerland and Brian Jones,51, of the United Kingdom, became the first pilots to ever fly a balloon nonstop around the world. Blowing at speeds up to 322 Km/h (200mph),the jet stream carried the balloon 46,759 kilometers (29,056 miles) in 19 day 21 hours and 47 minutes.

Air craft's work in so many interesting ways. They can go by moters or by the air it's self. Air can and is really powerful.Technology is so powerful to it could do anything in the fuchere. That is two of the resources that air crafts use. Air crafts could even go be both.

The United Kingdom record is traveling around the world in 14 days. First pilots ever to fly around the world 19 days 21 hours and 47 minutes. Air crafts work in difrent ways.

No specific introduction, conclusion, or body paragraphs

Consistent errors that make the meaning difficult

Student had several errors throughout the text that took away from the overall intent which is also unclear from beginning to end.

Statement of purpose/Focus and Organization	Evidence/Elaboration	Conventions
3	3	2

6th-grade informational text

Prompt: Ballooning

Kenzie

Have you ever wondered how far balloonists can travel in a balloons? There are three balloonists (two of which were in the same balloon) that have traveled all around the world. The next paragraph is going to be about the horrible things that have happened to the world breaking balloonists while they were on their journey. The one after that will be about how far they traveled. The last paragraph will be about the differences in the balloonists flight. Take the journey and read about these amazing balloonists!

Although flying hot air balloons may sound REALLY fun, it is also one of the most dangerous activities in the world! Steve Fossett (the solo balloonist) almost got killed by lightning and his balloon got torn into shreds. The balloon boys (Beauford Ricard & Brian Jones) lived on freeze-dried food rations and barely slept. It is really hard for balloonists to be safe. ESPESTALLY when they are traveling around the world.

Most balloonists just travel for an hour or so. The balloon boys & the soloist traveled more than 14 days! The affide "balloon boys" it states, "Blowing

Introduction begins with a question followed by an answer and a central idea for the essay.

Strong transitions and elaborations of evidence throughout the essay

at speeds up to 322km/h (200mph), the jet stream carried the balloon 46,754 kilometers (29,056 miles) in 14 days, 21 hours and 47 minutes. WOW! It took the balloonists almost three weeks to finish their journey! It is amazing how far balloonist can travel!

Even though the balloon boys and the soloist both traveled around the world, one of them traveled faster. It took the balloon boys 14 days, 21 hours & 47 minutes (29,056 miles). It took the soloist only 14 days! There is a big difference from how far they traveled, and even though the soloist was working by himself he still was able to be 5 days faster than the balloon boys. Working solo can still bring you to a good place.

In conclusion, the balloon boys and the soloist are world wide famous people. They are one of the best balloonists you could ever know of. There are still risks of horrible things that might happen. It is amazing to think of how far these people went, and it is amazing to see all the differences between these people. It is amazing to think about how fun flying a balloon would be, and the people are inspirations.

Conclusion wraps up central idea and restates talking point mentioned in introduction and body paragraphs.

Student showed strong focus throughout the paper along with appropriate transitions throughout. Student also showed good command of mechanics and supported evidence throughout their essay to supplement their take on the information derived from the text.

Statement of purpose/Focus and Organization	Evidence/Elaboration	Conventions
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Brinkley

pg 1

Have you ever seen a hot air balloon floating around outside? If so, imagine flying it around the world non-stop! Wouldn't that be hard? Surprisingly, 3 balloonists shattered the world records and did just that! The first record took place in 1999 with Bertrand Piccard, and Brian Jones who call themselves the Balloon Boys. The second record took place in 2002 with Steve Fossett. They both traveled the world and faced many hard ships as well.

Clear focus in the introduction with fairly adequate central idea.

To start off, the two adventurers, Brian Jones and Bertrand Piccard flew into history on March 19, 1999. The Balloon Boys became the first pilots to fly a hot air balloon around the world non-stop. They started their adventure with their balloon, the Breitling Orbiter 3, on a windy day. They found a wind current at an altitude of almost 9,114 meters, or 30,000 feet above Earth's surface. At the speeds up to 322 km/h, or 200 mph, the current carried the balloon 40,759 kilometers, or 29,056 miles. In 19 days, 21 hours, and 47 minutes, the Balloon boys crossed the finish line in Mauritania.

Student gave evidence, but mostly copied it into the essay. There isn't much elaboration of evidence shown.

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pg 2

Next, the 58 year old millionaire, Steve Fossett, finally achieved a world record. After 5 failed attempts, he flew a 14 day flight in a balloon. This balloonist ended his flight on July 2, 2002. He landed in the two million acre Durham Downs cattle ranch in Queensland, Australia. He started his flight with his 140 foot-tall by 60 foot-wide balloon named Spirit of Freedom. He almost flew 19,500 miles around the southern Hemisphere. He passed 117 degrees east longitude while his balloon began coming down that's where he started, so he crossed the finish line.

Good use of transitions throughout

Last, you might think that it might have been easy and fun to fly a balloon around the world. Instead, they faced many challenges. On the Balloon Boy's trip, they faced temperature down to -40°F. At a point, one of them had to reach out and chip off the ice on the cables, which would have crashed the balloon. While Steve Fossett tried to make the world record, he almost died. In 1998, his fourth try almost killed

him when his balloon was torn to pieces by lightning and fell 29,000 feet into the Coral Sea off Australia.

In conclusion, the three balloonists, Steve Fossett, Brian Jones, and Bertrand Piccard set marvelous world records. They flew around the world non stop in their balloons and succeeded. The Balloon Boys broke a record in 1999, and Steve Fossett broke another one in 2002. They both traveled the world, facing many hardships, and finishing.

Student had a clear focus, but did not elaborate on the evidence used to drive ideas in the essay. Rather, it was copied virtually word-for-word with no elaboration of the ideas. Mechanics were adequate and the focus of the essay was consistent.

Statement of purpose/Focus and organization	Evidence/Elaboration	Conventions
2	3	2

6th-grade informational text

Prompt: Ballooning

Have you ever flown in a hot air balloon? I imagine flying around the whole world in a hot air balloon. There would be many difficulties with weather and other difficulties. Many people have tried getting around the world the fastest anyone has ever gone so that they can get the world record.

First, weather would be a problem for air balloons. Winds can blow very fast higher up in elevation. It could blow it off track or worse. The balloons have to face wind and storms and even ice. If you fly into a colder climate ice might freeze onto your balloon. You would have to chip it off or it could cause problems. In the text, "Around the World in 14 Days," it says, "his balloon was torn to shreds by lightning and plummeted 20,000 feet into the Coral Sea of Australia." These balloons can be very dangerous when going through bad weather.

Second, other difficulties besides weather is challenges. In the text "Balloon Boys" it states "Still the trip was no picnic. The pilots lived on freeze-dried food rations and barely slept. If they fell asleep while riding the balloon could crash or fall to the ground and injure, or even kill the pilot. In the article, "Balloon Boys" it also says "Since 1961, more than 20 attempts to circle the globe in a balloon have failed." Some of those times is probably because the balloon got damaged and couldn't fly anymore.

Introduction has an unclear focus and central idea. Several ideas are entertained, but not one is the clear central idea.

Transitions are present and there is plenty of elaboration of ideas present

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Many people have attempted to get the world record. In the article "Balloon Boys" the author states that 2 men traveled around the world in 14 days, 21 hours and 47 minutes. But in 2002, an explorer traveled around the globe in 14 days. He beat the world record! He had tried many other times and failed. The pilots and explorers made amazing world records.

In conclusion, these explorers have flown all around the world. With many challenges of weather and other things, these pilots are amazing. They have completed goals and set world records.

The focus of the paper was not consistent, but elaboration of evidence was strong and present throughout. Mechanics were sufficient throughout. Transitions were present, but ideas became scattered as the essay progressed due to a lack of central idea in the introduction.

Statement of purpose/Focus and Organization	Evidence/Elaboration	Conventions
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Kate

Hot air ballooning is probably not the most popular activity, but for Steve Fossett, Bertrand Piccard, and Brian Jones, it was a huge part of their life for a short period of time. Even though they each had a similar goal, it was a different trek for each man. There flights were similar and different in three ways: their balloon size, their flight location, and their records that were set.

The first reason that the flights were similar and different is the balloon size. The balloon cabin must be functional for each pilot. Steve Fossett, who flew alone, had a balloon cabin about the size of a closet, as mentioned in an article titled, "Around the World in 14 days!" However, Brian Jones and Bertrand Piccard, who flew together, had a cabin equipped with not only bunk and toilet, but with desks fax, and satellite phones. Both cabins provided everything the pilots needed, and was a temporary home.

The second reason the flights were similar and different is the flight location. Both flights had very different routes. In fact, the routes were in entirely different hemispheres! In an article by Michael Cannell it explains that Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones started from atreau-d'Oex in the Swiss Alps, and ended in Mauritania in Africa. But in the article called "Around the World in 14 days" it mentions that Steve Fossett's flight started in Durham Downs cattle ranch in Queensland, Australia and crossed the finish line over open ocean, but later landed on land in Australia. Even though the locations are very different, that doesn't matter; What matters is the victory and satisfaction of finishing at the end.

The final reason the flights are similar and different is the records the pilots set. In the article titled, "Around the World in 14 days", it says "Steve Fossett was the first person to fly a balloon alone around the world." His record wasn't very different from the record Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones achieved. In the article by Michael Cannell it says, "Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones, became the first pilots to ever fly a balloon nonstop around the world." They worked their hardest but the records set were proof that it was worth it.

In conclusion, both flights were similar and different because of the balloon size, the flight route, and the records set. These men are great examples of working their absolute hardest and never giving up. Hot air ballooning can be dangerous and hard but in the end, all these men felt was relief and pure joy.

Clear and concise introduction, including a central idea shared with information given in the first sentences. Note that the wrong usage of "their" is present, but it does not detract from the central idea.

Each body paragraph elaborates on the central idea from the introduction. Excellent elaboration of ideas and transitions are used throughout.

This student grasps the concept of a clear introduction, effective use of evidence and displays and understanding of how to synthesize the ideas into new meaning-making and elaboration thereof.

Conclusion restates the ideas brought up in the introduction effectively

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6th-grade informational text

Prompt: Ballooning

Abigail

Have you ever wanted to ride in a hot air balloon? Most people probably think that it would be a fun, relaxing trip, but it turns out, it's not that easy. People have flown around the world in hot air balloons before, but it's no picnic.

Steve Fossett, an adventurer-millionaire, was one of the first people to fly solo around the world in a hot air balloon. According to the article, *Around the World in 14 Days!*, it took him 14 days and was his 6th attempt. He was 58 years old and finished the trip on July 2, 2002. His hot air balloon, the *Spirit of Freedom*, was gigantic: 140 feet tall and 60 feet wide. Steve Fossett took off in west Australia and flew almost 19,500 miles. He landed his balloon in Queensland, Australia, on the edge of "one of the most isolated outbacks in Australia," according to the article. He says that he won't take anymore long distance balloon trips, though he set a world record. He almost died on his 4th trip in 1998, when he almost died because his balloon was hit by lightning, destroyed, and fell about 29,000 feet into the Coral Sea near Australia. He even says that balloon trips were been the most dangerous things in his life.

Two other balloonists, Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones, were the first pilots to fly a balloon around the world *margin*. They took off on March 1, 1999 in Chateau-d'Oex in the Swiss Alps. Bertrand Piccard was 41 and from Switzerland, and Brian Jones was 51 and from the United Kingdom. Their balloon, *Breitling Orbiter 3*, had bunks, toilet, desks, fax, and satellite phones, according to the article *Balloon Boys*. They landed on March 19, 1999, and their

Clear and concise introduction and central idea. This previews what the paper will be about.

Excellent use of and summary of information discussing the central idea from the introduction

flight had taken 19 days, 21 hours, and 47 minutes. They traveled 29,056 miles. Sometimes their balloon traveled at speeds of 200 miles per hour! Meteorologists on the ground helped them using advanced computer models and sophisticated satellite data to help them maneuver around storms. They said that it was dangerous, too. In the text it states, "At one point they had to reach outside to chip off the ice that had formed on the cables, which threatened to crash the balloon..." Flight director Alan Noble said, "The navigation was like a jigsaw puzzle... We finally managed to pull it all together."

There are many similarities and differences about these two flights. One difference is that Steve Fossett was flying solo, while the "Balloon Boys" weren't. Also, Steve didn't have any meteorologists helping him navigate, and the "Balloon Boys" took longer. Something similar about the two is that they both had troubles, whether it was lightning or ice. They all thought flying long distances in hot air balloons was dangerous afterwards, and they all broke world records.

To conclude, flying in hot air balloons can be fun in short terms, but extremely dangerous if you aren't careful. Steve Fossett, Bertrand Piccard, and Brian Jones were very brave men to fly all the way around the world in balloons. The two flights have differences and similarities, but they both broke world records. Hot air balloons can be fun if you fly them for a little bit, but they can be dangerous, too. Many other people have flown balloons around the world, and these are just a couple.

Even though this part of the prompt isn't addressed until later in the essay, the student elaborates on the central idea shared from the introduction by weaving it with answering one of the prompt questions.

This student understands the conventions and transitions to make a reader-friendly essay while elaborating on the information to synthesize and make new meaning with the text.