

In Common: Effective Writing for All Students Collection of All Student Work Samples, K-12

By The Vermont Writing Collaborative, with Student Achievement Partners and CCSSO

Grade 1 On-Demand Opinion Writing Samples

Grade 1, Prompt for Opinion Writing

Common Core Standard W.CCR.1

(Passage should be read aloud by the teacher)

The Best Pet

My friend Ann says her pet is better than mine! I have a brown cat named Fluffy. Ann has a black and white dog named Spot. We each think our pet is the best.

I told Ann that cats are better pets because they are clean, quiet and very cute. Cats wash themselves with their tongues. You don't have to walk them. They use a litter box. Also cats are sweet and quiet. I think dogs are too noisy! They bark a lot. They don't clean themselves or use a litter box. Dogs need someone to give them baths, train them and walk them. Dogs are more work.

Ann says that cats are no fun! She says that dogs are better to play with. Spot always wags his tail when he sees her. He can even do tricks. He barks when she says, "Speak". He knows how to roll over! Ann says dogs are also better because they protect their owners. Spot always barks when there is

someone at the door. It makes Ann feel safe. So, Ann thinks dogs are best.

I guess Ann's dog is pretty cool, but so is Fluffy. Maybe different kinds of pets are good for different people.

The Best Pet

Student Directions, Part 1

15 minutes

Today, you are going to get ready to write an opinion piece that answers this question:

Which kind of pet is best, a cat or a dog?

PART 1 To help you think about the question before writing:

- Listen to the story carefully as your teacher reads aloud.
- Listen to the question again. **Which kind of pet is best, a cat or a dog?**
- **THINK!** Decide which is the best pet.
- Tell a partner which pet you chose. Then, tell your partner **WHY** you are picking that pet.

The Best Pet

Student Directions, Part 2

30 minutes

Now, you are going to write an opinion piece that answers this question:

Which kind of pet is best, a cat or a dog?

PART 2 Now that you have finished Part 1, you will write your piece.

- Listen to the story again.
- What pet is best for you, a cat or a dog? Why?
- Write your answer. Be sure to **pick either a cat or a dog** and **explain why** this kind of pet is best. You may look back in the story for ideas. Write as much as you can. Use as much paper as you need.

A good opinion piece will:

1. **Introduce the topic you are writing about.**
2. **Clearly answer the question.**
3. **Give lots of reasons and explanations.**
4. **"Wrap up" the piece with a concluding sentence.**
5. **Use capitals, periods and question marks, and spell words correctly.**

When you are finished, check your paper over and fix any mistakes you see.

If you have time, you may add a picture at the bottom or on the back to show why this pet is the best. Have fun!

Grade 1 Opinion Prompt

Teacher Directions

- Use the student prompt as directions for the session. Provide each student with a copy of the prompt and the story. Both should be read aloud while students read along silently (if they are able). The teacher should feel comfortable re-reading, explaining, or clarifying directions as needed.
- The story provides information that may be used to address the prompt. The story should be read aloud at least twice before writing. If students choose to refer back to the story while writing, the teacher may provide help with reading words or phrases.
- The prompt may be given in one or two sessions. Allow approximately 10-15 minutes for Part 1 and approximately 30 minutes for Part 2, but the prompt should not be strictly timed. Students should take the time they need to write and proofread.
- The writing must be done without help, but students may have access to personal dictionaries, word walls or any other resources to support spelling and mechanics that they are accustomed to using while writing. Provide lined paper from your classroom for writing. If desired, unlined paper may be provided for drawing.
- This will be first draft writing, but be sure to encourage students to proofread and correct any errors they find.

File Name: O1P A Dog is Best

Opinion/Argument

Grade 1

On-Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt

A Dog is Best

**Introduces the topic he
or she is writing about**

Which kind of pet is best, a cat or a dog?

States an opinion

I used to have a dog and I think a dog is best.

A dog becas its cute and it likes to Play and its snuggly and it likes to choo bones.

A dog is best because of theese reasons.

**Supplies a
reason for the
opinion**

Provides some sense of closure

This first-grade opinion piece offers a brief introduction (*"I used to have a dog"*) and then states an opinion (*"I thinck a dog is best"*). The writer supplies several reasons for the opinion. However, at this grade level, one reason would have been sufficient. A simple concluding statement provides a sense of closure.

File Name: O1P A Dog is Best

Opinion/Argument

Grade 1

Revised and Edited for Student Use

The Best Pet

Which kind of pet is best, a cat or a dog?

I used to have a dog, and I think a dog is best. A dog is best because it is cute, it likes to play, it is snuggly, and it likes to chew bones. A dog is best because of these reasons.

File Name: O1P A Dog is Best

Opinion/Argument

Grade 1

On Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt

The Best Pet

Which kind of pet is best, a cat or a dog?

I used to have a dog and I think a dog is best.

A dog because it's cute and it likes to play and it's snuggly and it likes to chew bones.

A dog is best because of these reasons.