

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

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

## Grade 2 On-Demand Opinion Writing Samples

## Grade 2, 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.

# Cat or Dog?

Should you get that cute little puppy or a cuddly kitten? Deciding between a cat and a dog can be hard. Here are some things to think about.

## **Company**

Dogs make great listeners. Many people tell dogs things they can't tell anyone else. Dogs are great for someone who lives alone or needs company. On the other hand, most cats enjoy being alone. You can leave them home alone for the day while your family is at school or work.

## **Exercise**

Cats and dogs both need exercise. Dogs need to be walked every day. This can be healthy for both of you. Exercise gives you energy. It also strengthens your muscles and bones. Walking and playing with your dog can make you both healthier! A cat needs much less exercise than a dog, but this makes a cat much easier to take care of. Your cat will probably be happy to chase a ball in your living room.

## **Training**

Dogs need training to live with people. This can take a lot of time, but you can teach your dog great tricks. Your dog can learn to sit, fetch and lie down. Cats need less training. Cats can be trained to fetch a ball or walk on a leash, but these lessons are just for fun. You don't need to train your cat to have a good pet.

Both cats and dogs can be wonderful family pets. Which pet is the right one for you?

## The Best Pet

Student Directions, Part 1

30 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, *The Best Pet* carefully as your teacher reads it 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 picked that pet.
- Now, listen to the article, *Dog or Cat?*.
- Now that you have some more information, think about the question again. **Which kind of pet is best, a cat or a dog?**
- Explain your thinking to a partner. Be sure to use facts and reasons when explaining your opinion.

## **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 and the article 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 text 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.

## Grade 2 Opinion Prompt

### Teacher Directions

- Use the student prompt as directions for the session. Provide each student with a copy of the prompt, the article, and the story. These 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.
- Both texts provide information that may be used to address the prompt. They should be read aloud at least twice before writing. If students choose to refer back to the text while writing, the teacher may provide help with reading words or phrases.
- The prompt may be given in one or two sessions. Allow approximately 30 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: O2P Dogs Rule**

**Opinion/Argument**

**Grade 2**

**On-Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt**

**States an  
opinion**  
Dogs rule

**Uses linking  
words to  
connect opinion  
and reason**

What pet is best for you cat or dog? I like dogs because they exercise a lot. All  
play fetch with you. They are fun to play with. That's why I like dogs best.

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

**Provides a concluding statement**

**Supplies reasons  
that support the  
opinion**

This second-grade opinion piece introduces the topic with a question (*"What pet is best for you cat or dog?"*) and states an opinion (*"I like dogs"*). Linking words (*"because", "Also"*) connect the opinion with several reasons. A concluding statement restates the main idea of the piece (*"That's why I like dogs best"*).  
  
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**File Name: O2P Dogs Rule**

**Opinion/Argument**

**Grade 2**

**Revised and Edited for Student Use**

### Dogs Rule

What pet is best for you, a cat or dog? I like dogs because they exercise a lot. Also they play fetch with you. They are fun to play with. That's why I like dogs best.

**File Name: O2P Dogs Rule**

**Opinion/Argument**

**Grade 2**

**On-Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt**

Dogs rule

What pet is best for you cat or dog? I like dogs because they exercise a lot. Also they play fetch with you. They are fun to play with. That's why I like dogs best.