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 5 On-Demand Opinion Writing Samples

Grade 5, Prompt for Opinion Writing

Common Core Standard W.CCR.1

(Directions should be read aloud and clarified by the teacher)

Name:

Before you begin: On a piece of lined paper, write your name and grade, the date, the name of your school and your state, and your teacher's name. You will use this paper for writing.

The Best Pet

There are many reasons why people own pets. A pet can entertain you, keep you company, or even protect you! Dogs and cats are the most popular pets in America today. Some people prefer an energetic dog and others, a cuddly kitten. Which pet do you think is best?

Your teacher is going to read two articles aloud. One is about the benefits of owning a cat and the other is about the benefits of choosing a dog as a pet. As you listen to these texts, think about the advantages of each kind of pet. Which kind of pet is best, a cat or a dog? After you have had a chance to hear the articles a second time, you will write an essay that states your opinion and explains your thinking.

For the essay, your focusing question will be:

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

You will explain your thinking with facts and reasons from the articles. Your teacher will also give you a page of "Pet Statistics" which you can use to support your opinion if you would like.

Remember, a good opinion essay:

- Has an introduction
- Clearly states your opinion/claim in a focus statement
- Uses specific evidence from the text(s) to support your opinion and explains your thinking
- o Groups ideas in paragraphs
- Has a conclusion
- o Uses precise language and linking words to connect ideas

• Has correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation

You will have two class periods to complete this reading/thinking/writing task. You may take notes right on the articles or on a separate sheet of paper. You may want to take some time to plan your writing before you begin work. The essay will have a single draft. When you have finished, be sure to proofread your work.

GOOD LUCK! WE LOOK FORWARD TO READING YOUR GOOD WORK!

Teacher Directions

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

Day 1 (45 minutes)

- Give out the assignment sheet.
- Read the assignment sheet aloud together and clarify the task for the students.
- Give each student a copy of Why Cats Make Better Pets than Dogs. Explain that
 they may want to underline or take notes on the article as you read it aloud.
 Read the article aloud.
- Pose the question, "Why might a cat make a good pet?" Remind students to use
 the article and their notes when thinking through their response. Have students
 turn and talk to a partner about this question for 3 minutes.
- Give each student a copy of Why Dogs make Good Pets. Remind students that they may want to underline or take notes on the article. Read the article aloud.
- Pose the question, "Why might a dog make a good pet?" Remind students to use
 the article and their notes when thinking through their response. Have students
 turn and talk to a partner about this question for 3 minutes.
- Explain that tomorrow you will be writing about whether a cat or a dog makes a
 better pet. Collect the articles and assignment sheets. (Be sure names are on
 them.)

Teacher Directions

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

Day 2 (45 minutes)

- Return the articles and reread both aloud.
- Ask students to think about both articles. Which pet would be best? Why? Have students turn and talk to a partner about this. Each student should talk for 3 minutes.
- Return the assignment sheet and reread it aloud.
- Hand out the sheet of Pet Statistics. Explain that students may use this as an additional resource if desired. If students choose to use this resource, the teacher may provide help by reading any difficult words or phrases.
- Provide lined paper (or a computer if your students are accustomed to composing on a keyboard) and give students the remainder of the period to write. The writing should be completed individually, without help, using only the sources provided.
- When the period is over, explain that students may finish writing and proofread tomorrow. Collect student work and materials.

Day 3 (45 minutes)

- Return student work and materials. Students may be given access to a dictionary, thesaurus, spell check or grammar check.
- Give students the remainder of the period to finish writing and proofreading.

Name:

Why Cats Make Better Pets than Dogs

Should you get that cute little puppy or a cuddly kitten? Deciding between a cat and a dog can be difficult. However, cats as pets do have some advantages.

Grooming

Cats bathe themselves. Most do not even need brushing. Dogs are more likely to need help from their owners in keeping clean.

Companionship

Cats enjoy being alone. You can leave them home alone for the day while you go to school. Dogs, however, need company. A dog needs much more of your time.

Exercise

Cats and dogs both need daily exercise. However, a cat needs much less exercise than a dog. Most dogs need to be taken for walk at least twice a day, even in the rain. Your cat will probably be happy to chase a ball in your living room.

Noise

Dogs can bark at all hours of the day or night. Cats sleep most of the day and are much quieter. They are unlikely to disturb your neighbors.

Training

Dogs need training to live with people. They need to be taught not to jump on people, how to sit and stay, and many other things. You may even need to teach your dog to lie down so you can have some quiet time. 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. Each can be affectionate and playful, but cats are much easier to care for. Maybe a cat is the right pet for you!

This article was adapted for classroom use from "Reasons Why Cats Make Better Pets than Dogs" by Dee Em, eHow Contributor http://www.ehow.com

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Name:

Why Dogs Make Good Pets

Thinking about getting a new pet? One of the most popular pets is a dog. Dogs make great pets for many reasons.

Companions

Dogs are patient and 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.

Friends

Most dogs are curious. They want to meet other people and animals. Owners are likely to meet others while out walking their dogs. Dogs are good conversation starters. They make it easy to meet new people.

Health

Dogs can make you healthier. Studies show that dog owners are less likely to get sick. When they do get sick, they get well quicker.

Safety

Most dogs will bark if there is danger. Dogs can scare off intruders or warn their owners of fire. Specially trained dogs can also find missing people, sniff out bombs and drugs and help disabled people.

Exercise

A dog needs daily exercise. The owner who walks his dog also benefits from this. Daily exercise can help keep you at a healthy weight. It gives you energy. It also strengthens your muscles and bones. Walking and playing with your dog can make you both healthier!

Is a dog the right pet for you? Owning a dog is a big responsibility, but there are many benefits. A dog might just be the perfect pet for you!

This article was adapted for classroom use from "Why Dogs Make Good Pets" by Cecilia McCormick, eHow Contributor http://www.ehow.com

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Name:

Pet Statistics

According to the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association (APPMA) 2001-2002 National Pet Owners Survey:

Dogs

In the United States:

- There are approximately 68 million owned dogs.
- Four in ten (or 40 million) U.S. households own at least one dog.
- Most owners own one dog (63%).
- About one-fourth (24%) of owners own two dogs.
- Thirteen percent of owners own three or more dogs.
- There are an equal number of male and female dogs owned.
- Twenty percent of owned dogs were adopted from an animal shelter.
- On average, dog owners spent \$196 on veterinary related expenses in the past 12 months.

Cats

In the United States:

- There are approximately 73 million owned cats.
- Three in ten (or 34.7 million) U.S. households own at least one cat.
- One half of cat-owning households (49%) own one cat; the remaining (51%) own two or more.
- There are a similar number of owned female (51%) versus male (49%) cats.
- Twenty percent of owned cats were adopted from an animal shelter.
- Cat owners spent an average of \$104 on veterinary related expenses in the past 12 months.

File Name: O5P Dogs are Best

Opinion/Argument

Grade 5

On-Demand Writing - Uniform Prompt

Dogs are Best

Introduces a topic or text clearly

> Cats and dogs can be very entertaining. But when it comes down to the best pet, I would say the dog.

> One reason why I think a dog is the best pet to have, is because you can talk to them. And they listen to you. You can tell them secrets, and how you feel. Kind of like a personal journal, except they actually hear what your saying.

Another reason why I think a dog is the best pet to have, is because dogs can warn you of danger. And sometimes that danger might be life threatening. So with a dog its like you have your own danger alarm.

Also another reason why I think dogs are the best pets to have is because they keep you company. They are perfect pets to have if you love company. And with a dog, its almost like you are having your best friends over. And better yet, if you own the dog, and it's a weekday, its like your friends are spending the night on a school night.

Another reason why I think a dog is the best pet to have is because they need to get excersise. You will have to walk your dog every day. So even if

States an opinion

Links opinion and reasons using words, phrases, and clauses

> Provides logically ordered reasons that are supported by facts and details

from the sources and personal experience

you don't like to walk, your dog and you will be getting automatic excersise.

Which will make you and your dog healthier.

Cats and dogs are very unique in their own fastenating way. But to choose between the both of them, I would go for the dog. Even though dogs require lots of responsibilities, and need maintenence and training, they are still worth the effort. But most importantly, they are like a best friend.

Provides a concluding section related to the opinion presented

This fifth-grade opinion piece provides some context ("Cats and dogs can be very entertaining") and then clearly states an opinion. The writer creates an organizational structure in which ideas are logically grouped in paragraphs to support the writer's purpose. Each paragraph presents a reason and then explains or elaborates on that reason. Transitions used within and between paragraphs ("but when it comes down to", "one reason", "so", "better yet", "even if", "which will") provide cohesion. A range of general academic vocabulary ("automatic", "fascinating", "maintenence") conveys ideas precisely. The well-developed conclusion restates the context and the opinion, briefly acknowledges possible counterarguments, and reflects on the importance of the information presented.

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Opinion/Argument

Grade 5

Revised and Edited for Student Use

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One reason why I think dogs are the best pets to have is because you can talk to them and they listen to you. You can tell them secrets and how you feel. Kind of like a personal journal, except they actually hear what you're saying.

Another reason why I think a dog is the best pet to have is because a dog can warn you of danger, and sometimes that danger might be life threatening. So, with a dog, it's like you have your own danger alarm.

Also another reason why I think dogs are the best pets to have is that they keep you company. They are perfect pets to have if you love company. And with dogs, it's almost like you are having your best friends over. And better yet, if you own the dog, and it's a weekday, it's like your friends are spending the night on a school night.

Another reason why I think a dog is the best pet to have is because they need to get exercise. You will have to walk your dog every day. So, even if

you don't like to walk, your dog and you will be getting automatic exercise.

This will make you and your dog healthier.

Cats and dogs are very unique in their own fascinating way. But if I had to choose between the both of them, I would go for the dog. Even though dogs require lots of responsibility and need maintenance and training, they are still worth the effort. Most importantly, a dog is like a best friend.

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Opinion/Argument

Grade 5

On Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt

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Which will make you and your dog healthier.

Cats and dogs are very unique in their own fastenating way. But to choose between the both of them, I would go for the dog. Even though dogs require lots of responsibilities, and need maintenence and training, they are still worth the effort. But most importantly, they are like a best friend.