

Focus and Organization	Evidence and Elaboration	Conventions
4	3	2

3rd Grade: Informational Writing

Prompt: Horses and Zebras

Many people think that zebras and horses are the same animal. One similarity is that both of them are fast as a car. One difference is that zebras live in a herd. My second similarity is they both have hooves. A second difference is that there are only three types of zebra when there are many different types of horse. Lastly, they both eat grass. But, zebras nibble and horses graze. And that is the similarities and differences of zebras and horses.

- Introduces the topic
- Uses linking words and phrases
- Develops the topics with facts, definitions, and details
- Provides a concluding statement

Taina

This writing sample contains an introduction to the topic that is clear and stays focused. The writer synthesizes and integrates text evidence well into the response. The writer organizes the piece well and clearly outlines each example while using transitional strategies. A concluding statement is provided. Capitalization, punctuation, and spelling demonstrate sufficient command.

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3rd Grade: Informational Writing

Prompt: Horses and Zebras

Corinne

I'm going to tell you how horses and zebras are alike, and I'm going to tell you how they are different. It said in the text that, "The zebra is a member of the same animal family as horses and donkeys." I also read that horses and zebras both like to nibble on grasses, but a horse can eat 25 pounds (11.35 kilograms) of grass in one day. The author also stated that, "Horses have shorter hair on their bodies and longer hair on their necks and tails. The long neck hair is called a mane." and for zebras have a short stiff mane, but horses have longer manes than the zebra. Baby horses are called foals and that baby zebras are called colts. I read that light horses can run up to 40 miles per hour, zebras can reach up to 50 miles, so zebras are obviously faster. The author stated that, "Zebras live in herds as large as 200,000." I read that the heavy horse is the strongest horse and it stands 6 feet tall! Horses come in different colors. Appaloosas are red spotted horses, and Palominos are golden with white manes, and Bays are brown with black legs. Zebras live in Africa and have black and white stripes. Like a person's fingerprints, a zebra is one of a kind. Another thing that is the same about

Introduces the topic

Uses linking words and phrases to connect ideas

Develops the topic with facts, definitions, and details

them is that they are both mammals.
Obviously horses and zebras are two very
wonderful animals. So let's think more about
these wonderful animals. I think that
horses and zebras are extraordinary
animals.

Provides a
concluding
statement or section

This third grade sample has a clear introduction to the topic, yet the organization of the rest of the text is inadequately grouped together. The writer integrates text evidence into the piece well and connects ideas together. The student uses a variety of transitional strategies to bring flow to the text. The language conventions, punctuation, and spelling demonstrate effective command.

Focus and Organization	Evidence and Elaboration	Conventions
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3rd Grade: Informational Writing
 Prompt: Horses and Zebras

Horses and Zebras

Horses and zebras are interesting animals. They have many differences, but they are also very much alike too.

According to the text horses have short hair on their bodies. But on the back of their necks and tails the hair is a lot longer. That is almost the same with zebras. They have short hair on their bodies and longer on the back of their necks and tails. On the zebras neck the longer hair sticks straight up. Zebras are white with black stripes.

The author stated light horses have long, slender, legs that can take the horse up to 40 mph. They make super great racehorses! A zebra has to be fast to outrun his or her enemies. Zebras can reach the speed of 50 mph. That's as fast as a car can travel!

One detail from the text is there are three different types of zebras. There are a couple different types of horses. Some of the kinds of horses are the Appalosas, which

Introduces the topic

Develops the topic with facts

Uses linking words and phrases

are red, spotted horses. The Palominos, that are golden with light manes. And Bays, which are brown with black legs. And the three zebras are the Grevy's zebra, the mountain zebra, and the plains zebra.

Horses and zebras are way cool and interesting animals. They can be different in many ways, and the same in many ways.

Provides a concluding section.

In this third grade sample, the student provides a clear introduction that relates to the prompt posed. Additionally, the writer includes ways in which zebras and horses are alike and different, but the relationship between the ideas is loosely connected. The writer uses a variety of transitional strategies, integrates evidence from the text, and provides an adequate concluding statement or section. There is no evidence of elaboration and the integration of the ideas used to compare could be stronger. The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions through the student's use of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

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3rd Grade: Informational Writing

Prompt: Horses and Zebras

I am going to tell you why horses and zebras are different. One way horses and zebras are different is because horses carry heavy loads and people. My second reason is zebras only have striped black and white fur but horses have different patterned fur. Third, horses can only run up to 40 miles per hour but a zebra can run up to 50 miles per hour. Fourth, horses can live up to 20-30 years old but a zebras can only live up to 15-20 years old. So those are the reasons why horses and zebras are different.

Now I am going to tell you about how horses and zebras are the same. First, horses and zebras both have hooves on their feet. Second, they both drink milk from their mothers. Third, horses and zebras are both native to Africa. Fourth, zebras and horses are both herbivores so that means they only eat plants. So these are some reasons why horses and zebras are the same.

Introduces the topic

Uses linking words and phrases

Develops the topics with facts, definitions, and details

Provides a concluding statement

Max

In this student sample, the writer introduces the topic partially as he only attends to the differences at first. The student integrates evidence from the text into two well-organized paragraphs. Redundant transitional strategies are used. A concluding statement is provided. The students command of conventions, punctuation, and spelling demonstrates proficiency.

Focus and Organization	Evidence and Elaboration	Conventions
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3rd Grade: Informational Writing
 Prompt: Horses and Zebras

BY Josh

HORSES AND ZEBRAS

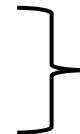
Have you ever gone to the zoo and wondered how zebras and horses are alike and different I have. Well there are many different ways how zebras are alike and different. First of all, when zebras are born they are called colts and horses are called foals. Next, there are only three types of zebras and horses. In the text is said, "There are three types of zebras which are, a Grevy's zebra, a mountain zebra, and the plains zebra. Plus, the three types of horses are, Ponies, Light horses, and heavy horses." Also zebra's and horse's manes are different. In the text in said that "Zebras have thick short manes and then horses have long and thin manes." Another thing how zebras and horses are alike is they are in the same family. That is probably why they look the same. Also zebras and horses are different colors. In the text it said, "Horses come in different colors such as red spotted, golden with light manes, and brown with black legs." Also some horses are

Introduces the topic

Develops the topic with facts, definitions, and details

Uses linking words and phrases to connect ideas

bigger than zebras. Usually, zebras grow to be about as big as medium size horses. Also Zebras have stripes and horses don't. Did you know that a zebra's strips are one – of – a – kind? Also horses live a little bit longer than zebras. In the text it stated, Zebras can live to 15 to 20 years and a horse can live up to 20 to 30 years. Plus, horses and zebras are called different things. In the text it stated, Male horses are called stallions and females are called mares and as I said a baby horse is a foal. Another thing why zebras and horses are alike is because they are alike is they are both really fast. According to the text it said, Horses can run up to 40 miles an hour. That is about how fast cars go. Also zebras can out run their enemy, they can reach their top speed of 50 miles an hour. That is 10 miles faster than a horse, but a horse can still run as fast as a car. Well as you can see there are many ways how zebras and horses and alike and different.



Provides a concluding statement

In this third grade sample, the student provides a clear introduction that relates directly to the prompt posed. Additionally, the writer includes ways in which zebras and horses are alike and different, but the transitions back and forth between differences and similarities with no clear organization or distinction. The writer uses basic transitional strategies, integrates evidence from the text, and provides an adequate concluding statement or section. The response demonstrates an inconsistent use of punctuation and capitalization, but adequate use of spelling.

Focus and Organization	Evidence and Elaboration	Conventions
2	3	2

3rd Grade: Informational Writing

Prompt: Horses and Zebras

Zebras and Horses are alike in a lot of ways. First, they are in the same family. Second, both baby's drink their mother's milk for a short time period. Third, they both have difference in them. Zebras have different stirpes and horses have different colors for example Appaloosas are red-spotted horses. Fourth, they both graze for grass.

Horses and Zebras have a lot of difference in them. First, Zebras you don't ride and horses you do ride. Second, horses are normally tamed and Zebras are almost only tamed in zoos. Third, horses have made humans lives easier because they can pull heavy things and Zebras just grass or move to another spot.

Joshua

Uses linking words

Develops topic with facts, definitions, and details

This third grade sample introduces part of the topic in the opening line, but fails to introduce the entire concept. The student incorporates transitional strategies, but uses little variety. The piece is well organized and has well-defined sections that integrate evidence from the text smoothly. No concluding section or statement is provided. The capitalization, punctuation, and spelling demonstrate sufficient command.

Focus and Organization	Evidence and Elaboration	Conventions
2	2	1

3rd Grade: Informational Writing
Prompt: Horses and Zebras

Horses have stronger legs than a zebra they can live 20 to 30 years old.

What is the same about them is they have hooves and there family.

Zebras are the medeium size as a horse. They live up to 20 years. They are endangerd.

Develops the topic with facts, definitions, and details

Matthew

This third grade writer does not introduce the topic or provide a focus, but does group related information together. He uses facts and details to develop the topic. Linking words and phrases are absent, as well as a concluding statement or section. The errors in usage obscure meaning slightly. There is some inconsistent use of punctuation, but capitalization and spelling are adequate.

Focus and Organization	Evidence and Elaboration	Conventions
2	2	1

3rd Grade: Informational Writing
Prompt: Horses and Zebras

Blake

HORSES AND ZEBRAS

Horses and zebras are alike and different. Horses are tamed animals, unlike zebras roam free in Africa. The author stated Horses live in many places in the world. According to the text there are three kinds of horses, ponies, light horses, and heavy horses, there are three kinds of zebras, Grevys, the mountain zebra, and the plains zebra. Stated from the text I learned both animals are in the same family. Because the text stated Horses have short fur on its body and long hair on its neck it's called a mane and it has long hair on its tail, and the same with zebras. Stated in the text I learned ponies are the smallest kind of horse, the light horse are taller and bigger than ponies and they can carry bigger loads, the heavy horse is bigger and taller than any other horse and can carry more

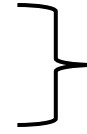
Introduces the topic

Develops the topic with facts, definitions, and details

Uses linking words and phrases to connect ideas

loads than any other horse. Zebras live in the plains in packs up to 200,000.

In conclusion, I think that they are more unlike than alike.



Provides a concluding statement

This third grade writer clearly introduces the topic, but struggles to group related information together. A number of facts and details are integrated from the text to support the writer's response, but the lack of a coherent structure makes the facts seem random. The writer uses linking words and phrases, but they inadequately connect ideas. A conclusion is present. Errors in usage, capitalization, and punctuation detract from the meaning of the text.

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2	2	1

3rd Grade: Informational Writing
Prompt: Horses and Zebras

The way I think that Horses and Zebras are alike and different for my second paragraph I will talk about how they are different and the same.

Introduces the topic

Zebras and Horses are different in these ways. First Horses are domesticated and Zebras are wild animals next Horses are trained to carry people and heavy lodes that we humans can't carry alone. Now Horses have stuffer backs because people have trained them for thousands and thousands of years of having horses they have evolved over time to have a stronger back that can hold people. For one of my final reasons it's about the Horses' mane is long but the Zebra's mane is short. Now for my second to last reason for the different side of looking at the subject it's how they eat the Horses eat 25 pounds a day and the Zebras nibble there food. For my last differed reason is the Zebras are from Africa and they are hunted for there meat and skin. For my first same reason they both belong to the same family. They both have hooves not feet. They are both as fast as a car can go. They are both about the same size. When they were born they both drank there mom's milk.

Uses linking words and phrases to connect ideas

Develops the topic with facts, definitions, and details

For those reasons Zebras and Horses are both different and the same. At the same time.

Provides a concluding statement or section

Raeqan

This student's sample provides an introductory statement, but it confusing as the thought is not complete. The structure of sentences often obscures the meaning of the written text, including conventions and punctuation. The writer does integrate text evidence to describe the differences and similarities.