

3th Grade Opinion Writing Prompt

PROMPT

After reading "Pets," "Cats," and "Dogs," write a 1-3 paragraph essay in which you give your opinion about which would be a better pet between a cat and a dog. Your essay must be based on ideas and information from the passage set.

TARGETED STANDARDS CONNECTION

Writing

W.3.1 Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

W.3.1.A Introduce the topic or text they are writing about, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure that lists reasons.

W.3.1.B Provide reasons that support the opinion.

W.3.1.C Use linking words and phrases (e.g., *because*, *therefore*, *since*, *for example*) to connect opinion and reasons.

W.3.1.D Provide a concluding statement or section.

For those typing their responses: **W.3.6** With guidance and support from adults, use technology to produce and publish writing (using keyboarding skills) as well as to interact and collaborate with others.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Materials:

"Pets." *Kidbits*. Jenny Tesar and Kathleen Rocheleau. Detroit: Blackbirch Press, 2005. *Kids InfoBits*. Web. 26 Jan. 2016.

"Cats." *Kids InfoBits*. Gale, 2012. *Kids InfoBits*. Web. 26 Jan. 2016.

"Dogs." *Kids InfoBits*. Gale, 2012. *Kids InfoBits*. Web. 26 Jan. 2016.

Instructional Sequence:

1. Teacher hands out the typed up prompt and text.
2. The teacher introduces the writing prompt, and explains that students will be reading/listening to a text and using that text to answer the prompt.

3. The teacher reads aloud pages of attached text, to the students. As the teacher reads, students may be underlining or highlighting information that they may find useful for responding to the prompt.
4. Upon finishing the read aloud, students will be provided with paper to respond to the prompt.

Write a 1-3 paragraph essay in which you give your opinion about which would be a better pet between a cat and a dog. Your essay must be based on ideas and information from the passage set.

Pets

Look in an American home and you're likely to see a cat snoozing on a couch or a dog sleeping on the carpet. More than half of all households in America include at least one pet. Most of these homes have either dogs or cats—or both dogs and cats. But many other kinds of animals are also kept as pets, including birds, fish, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, ferrets, horses—even pot-bellied pigs!

Source Citation (MLA 7th Edition)

"Pets." *Kidbits*. Jenny Tesar and Kathleen Rocheleau. Detroit: Blackbirch Press, 2005. *Kids InfoBits*. Web. 26 Jan. 2016.

Cats

All cats are related. Lions, tigers, leopards, and cheetahs are part of the same family of cats you keep as pets. Pet cats are called domestic cats. Cats have been domesticated for at least 5,000 years. Cavemen prized cats for their hunting skills and their ability to catch rats and mice.

No one knows for sure where the domestic cat comes from. Most experts believe it comes from a North African wildcat.

There are two breeds of domestic cats: long-haired and short-haired. Short-haired cats are usually thinner and more active than long-haired ones.

Some things are the same in both breeds. All cats eat meat. They have rounded heads, big eyes, and pointed ears. All cats have whiskers and sharp teeth. Their tongues feel like sandpaper. The roughness on the tongue actually comes from tiny, sharp hairs that help them drink and clean their fur.

Cats have five toes on their front feet and four on the back. That fifth front toe never touches the ground. Instead, it is used for capturing animals and for grooming. Cats' claws are razor-sharp and curved. This makes cats excellent climbers.

Cats use their tails for balance. They can see especially well in the dark. Their sense of smell is 14 times stronger than a human's. They have excellent hearing and can hear sounds humans cannot. Cats run fast and swim well.

Domestic cats vary in size. Males weigh between 9 and 14 pounds (4.1 to 6.4 kilograms). Females weigh about 6 to 10 pounds (2.2 to 4.5 kilograms). Cats give birth to an average litter of 3 to 5 kittens. Kittens drink their mother's milk until they are five weeks old.

Domestic cats can live to be 20 years old. They live on every continent around the globe. Wild cats have a life span of about 12 years. All continents have native species except Australia and Antarctica.

Source Citation (MLA 7th Edition)

"Cats." *Kids InfoBits*. Gale, 2012. *Kids InfoBits*. Web. 26 Jan. 2016.

Dogs

Dogs probably came from the gray wolf. Humans first started interacting with the gray wolf about 400,000 years ago. Wolves were used to hunt and guard homes. In return, humans would feed and care for the wolves. This relationship caused the wolves to depend on humans and become tame, or domesticated. Evidence shows that domestic breeds appeared about 100,000 years ago. Today, there are about 500 dog breeds. Mixed breeds are called mutts.

Dogs come in all shapes, colors, and sizes. The smallest breed is the Chihuahua. It weighs between 6 and 8 pounds (2.7 and 3.6 kilograms). This is about the size of a newborn baby. The largest breed is the English Mastiff. This dog weighs between 180 and 200 pounds (81.7–90.8 kilograms). This is about the same size as the average man.

All dogs are color blind. This means they only see things in black and white. However, they have excellent hearing. They can hear sounds up to four times the distance human ears can. Some dogs are fast. Greyhounds can run at speeds of 45 miles per hour (72 kilometers per hour).

Dogs enjoy the company of other dogs and humans. If you have a pet dog, you know they like attention and activities like going for walks and fetching balls. Most dogs eat meat, but also need vegetables and grains in their diet.

People train dogs to help them in many ways. Dogs are used to hunt and herd animals. They help the police and work as guard dogs. Dogs are also trained as service dogs. They guide the blind, alert the deaf to sound, and help people in wheelchairs. They give comfort to people in hospitals, nursing homes, and disaster areas. Sometimes dogs are astronauts. A Russian dog was the first live passenger ever to fly into space. Some people in foreign countries eat dogs.

When a dog has a group of puppies it is called a litter. There are usually six to ten puppies in every litter. Smaller dogs have smaller litters. The largest litter for a domestic dog ever recorded was 23 puppies. Dogs can give birth to two litters every year. Most dogs live to be ten or 12 years old. Some have lived to be over 20 years old.

Source Citation (MLA 7th Edition)

"Dogs." *Kids InfoBits*. Gale, 2012. *Kids InfoBits*. Web. 26 Jan. 2016.