

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

K–5 On-Demand, Argument/Opinion Samples

K–5

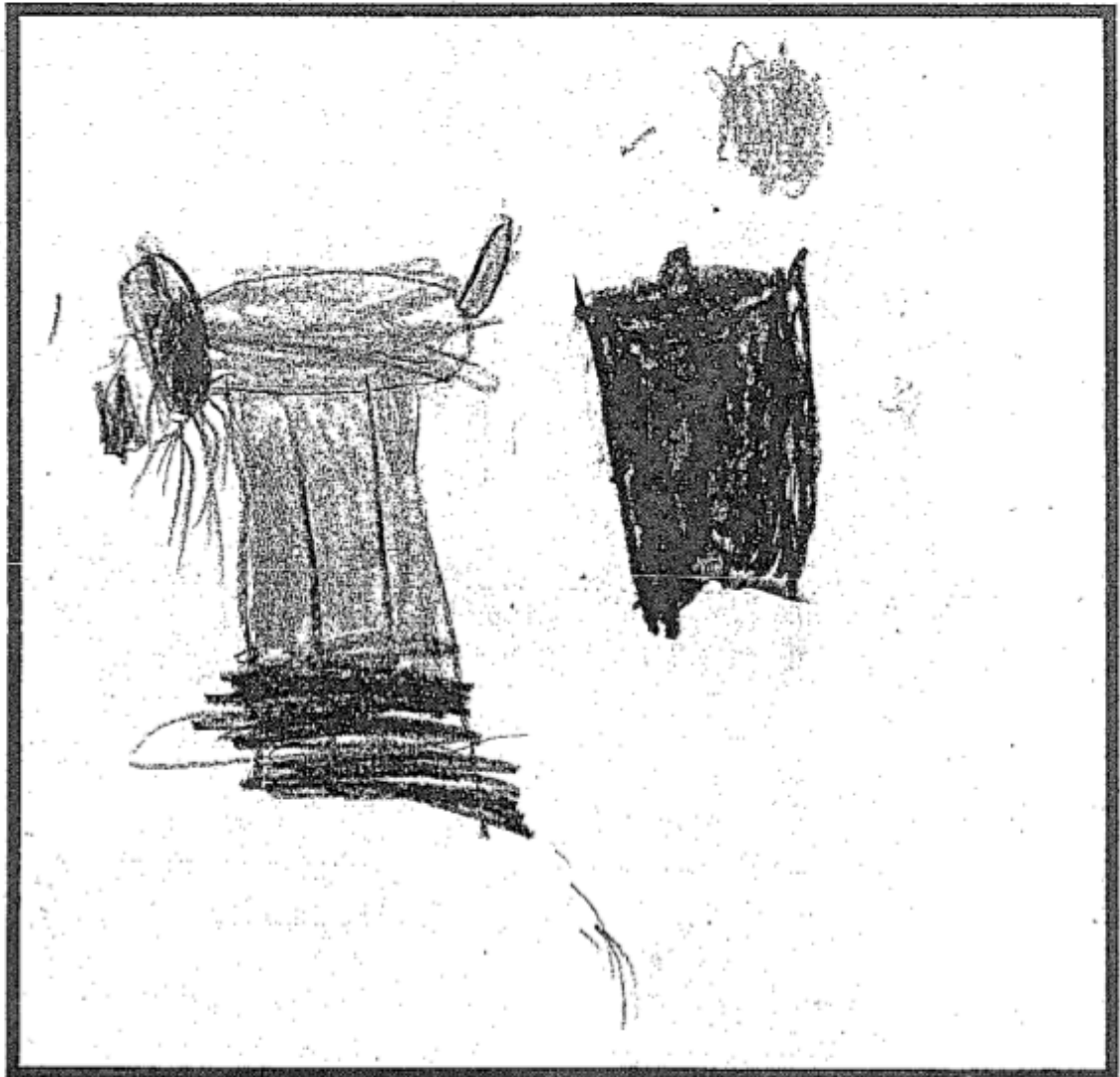
On-Demand, Argument/Opinion Samples

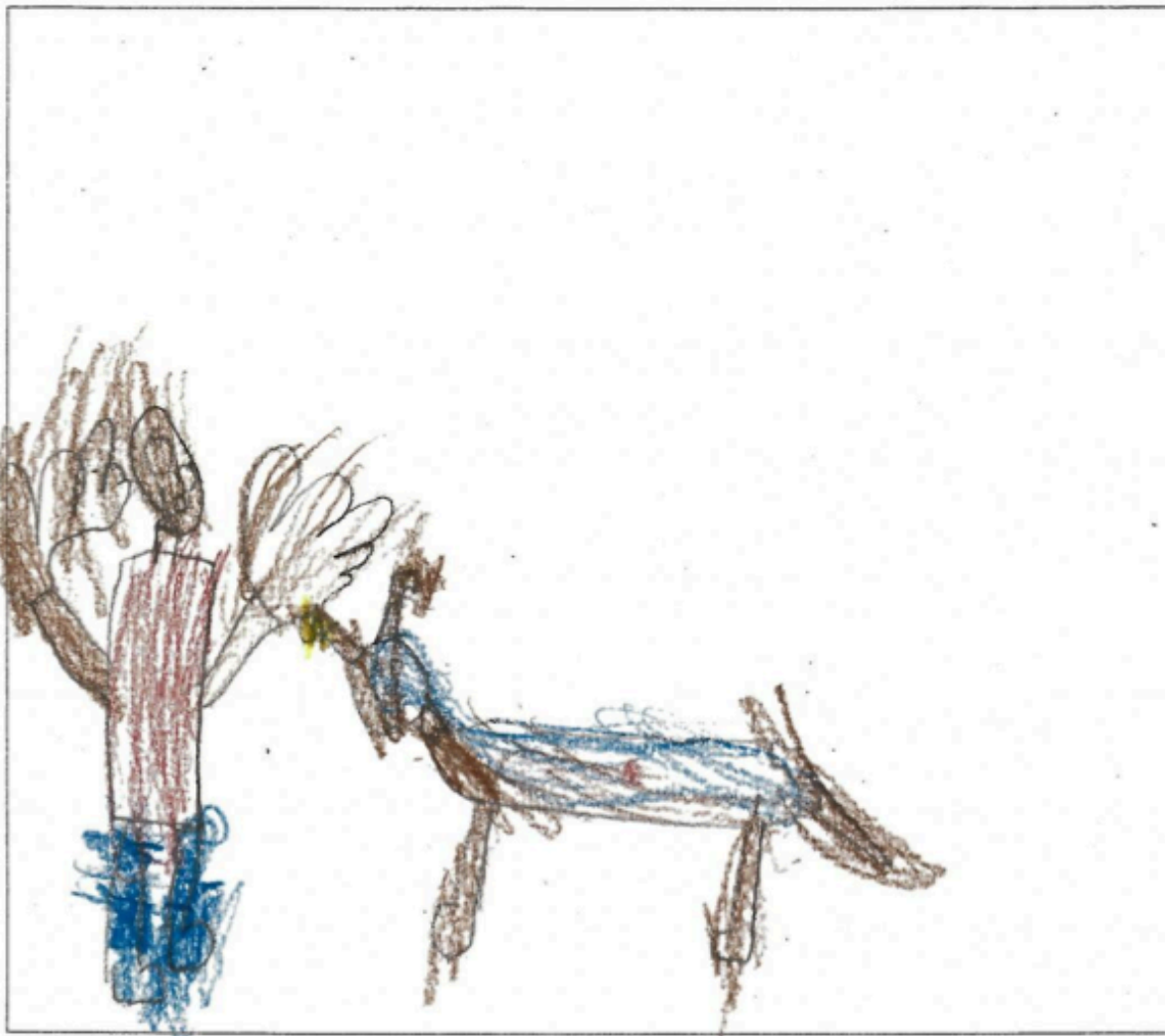
These pieces were written in response to a uniform text-based prompt. The text changes at grade 3 to two pieces of text, but the task and prompt remain essentially the same.

- K prompt: *What do you think? Which pet is best—a cat or a dog?*
- 1–5 prompt: *Which kind of pet is best, a cat or a dog?*

MKTECKK DRWD

"I like my cat because they are better
than clogs."





Dog is the BEST BECS
Zhed PURD.

Dog is the best because they bark

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

A dog is best because of these reasons.

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.

File Name: 03P The Best Pet

Opinion/Argument

Grade 3

On Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt

The Best Pet

Are you looking for a new Pet? I'd recommend a cat. For one thing they aren't that expensive you could find one on your porch and adopt it. Cats usually bathe themselves. Cats will sleep with you and can help you calm down when you're upset or mad. Cats also don't need training and you can't leave cats home for the day. Cats don't need much exercise. So if you are looking for a pet maybe see some cats and you might find yourself a great pet!

File Name: O4P Which is Better

Opinion/Argument

Grade 4

On Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt

Which is Better?

Many people have a dog for a pet. Some people have cats. Which is better? I say dog. Maybe you say cat. I just might be able to persuade you in the following.

Dogs are great companions for lonely people. They can go for a rousing walk in the park, or a good long nap. Playing games of catch or fetch every day makes good fun. Even a jog on the hottest day could even be enjoyable too. Dogs don't just provide fun though. They can also provide protection.

Dogs are very intelligent. They can be trained to find people or save them. Some don't even need to be trained. For instance, if someone is trying to break in, your dog might bark and scare them off. Dogs are great for many different reasons.

Overall, dogs are awesome pets to have. Have I convinced you though? If you are, then great! If you're not then that's okay. It's really up to you. So which one is it going to be?

File Name: O5P Dogs are Best

Opinion/Argument

Grade 5

On Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt

Dogs are Best

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

File Name: OKFP The Best Pet

Opinion/Argument

Kindergarten, Fall

On-Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt

The Best Pet

MKIECYKDBbD

*I like my cat because they are better than dogs.**

**dictated response*

Tells the reader the topic he or she is writing about and states an opinion or preference about the topic

In this Kindergarten opinion piece, done in the early fall, the student shows a basic awareness that what we say can be written down. Early in the Kindergarten year, specific letter/sound association has typically not yet developed, yet the above type of experimentation with writing plays a crucial role in the development of written language

File Name: OKSP The Best Pet

Opinion/Argument

Kindergarten, Spring

On Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt

Dog is the Bst Becs thea BuRc.

Tells the reader the topic he or she is writing about and states an opinion or preference about the topic

In this Kindergarten piece, done in the spring, the student shows a growing understanding of the sounds in words and the letters that represent those sounds. The writer names a topic and clearly expresses an opinion. Although not required by the standards, this writer also gives a reason for the opinion (*Becs thea BuRc*), laying the foundation for the more complex opinion pieces he will write in first grade.

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?

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

States an opinion

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

**Supplies a
reason for the
opinion**

A dog is best because of theese reasons.

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 think 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: O2P Dogs Rule

Opinion/Argument

Grade 2

On-Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt

Dogs rul **States an
opinion**

What pet is best for you cat or dog? I like dogs beacause they exercise a lot. Al
play fetch with you. They are fun to play with. Thats why I like dogs best.

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

**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 (*“beacause”, “Also”*) connect the opinion with several reasons. A concluding statement restates the main idea of the piece (*“Thats why I like dogs best”*).

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File Name: 03P The Best Pet

Opinion/Argument

Grade 3

On-Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt

**Introduces
the topic**
by posing a
question

States an opinion

The Best Pet

Are you looking for a new Pet? I'd rekoment a cat. For one thing they aren't that egspensev you could find one on your porch and aboped it. Cat's yushely baeth them sellf. Cat's will sleep with you and can help you cawlm down when you'r upset or mad. Cat's allso don't need training and you can's leave cats home for the day. Cat's don't need much exercise. So if you are looking for a pet maebv see some cat's and you mite find your self a great pet!

**Provides reasons
that support the
opinion**

**Uses linking words
and phrases to
connect opinion and
reasons**

**Provides a concluding
statement**

In this third-grade opinion piece, the writer begins with a question, which introduces the topic and provides some context for the reader. The stated opinion ("*I'd rekoment a cat.*") provides a clear focus, which is developed with reasons from the source that accompanies the prompt. The reasons given are additive and do not build upon one another; they could be presented in any order. Linking words ("*and*", "*allso*", "*so*") connect opinion to reasons and help create cohesion. The writer creates an organizational structure that states an opinion, lists reasons, and concludes. Both the introduction and conclusion are designed to engage the reader, and each shows a beginning awareness of purpose and audience.

File Name: O4P Which is Better

Opinion/Argument

Grade 4

On-Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt

Which is Better?

Introduces a topic clearly

Many people have a dog for a pet. Some people have cats. Which is better? I say dog. Maybe you say cat. I just might be able to persuade you in the following.

States an opinion

Dogs are great companions for lonely people. They can go for a rousing walk in the park, or a good long nap. Playing games of catch or fetch every day makes good fun. Even a jog on the hottest day could even be enjoyable too. Dogs don't just provide fun though. They can also provide protection.

Provides reasons that are supported by facts and details

Dogs are very intelligent. They can be trained to find people or save them. Some don't even need to be trained. For instance, if someone is trying to break in, your dog might bark and scare them off. Dogs are great for many different reasons.

Links opinion and reasons using words and phrases

Overall, dogs are awesome pets to have. Have I convinced you though? If you are, then great! If your not then thats okay. It's really up to you. So which one is it going to be?

Creates an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's purpose

Provides a concluding section related to the opinion presented

This fourth-grade opinion piece has a well-developed introduction that establishes some context (*"Many people have a dog for a pet. Some people have cats."*) and states an opinion (*"Which is better? I say dog."*). The purpose of the piece, to convince the reader that dogs are better as pets than cats, is clearly stated in the last line of the introduction. Although the paragraphs are incorrectly indented, related ideas are grouped together; the writer presents two main reasons that dogs are better: they are great companions, and they can provide protection. Each reason is well-elaborated using supporting facts and details drawn from the source included in the prompt. Transitional sentences (*"Dogs don't just provide fun though."*) and linking words and phrases (*"even", "also", "for instance"*) connect ideas in the piece and provide cohesion. The last paragraph shows the writer's confidence in her reasoning by acknowledging that readers must form their own opinions after considering the opinion she presents.

File Name: OSP 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.

States an opinion

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.

Links opinion and reasons using words, phrases, and clauses

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.

Provides logically ordered reasons that are supported by facts and details

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.

from the sources and personal experience

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

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

Which will make you and your dog healthier.

Cats and dogs are very unique in their own fascinating way. But to choose between the both of them, I would go for the dog. Even though dogs require lots of responsibilities, and need maintenance 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", "maintenance"*) 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.