

Sixth Grade Argument Writing Performance Assessment Fall 2013

Should animals be allowed in classrooms?

1. Text-*"Why Dogs Reduce Stress in the Classroom."*
2. Text-*"Should You Have a Pet in Your Classroom?"*
3. Text-*"Pets Enhance Learning"*
4. Video- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EA08i7s1uWU>

Name: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Response to video “Why Dogs Reduce Stress in the Classroom”

Summary of the central idea(s) of the video: [Click here to enter text.](#)

What is one important reason that this text gives for why dogs reduce stress? Name the reason and list more than one detailed example or other specific evidence the video gives to support that reason.

According to the video, what is one important way that dogs reduce stress in the classroom?

[Click here to enter text.](#)

What examples or other specific evidence does the video give to support this?

✓ Example or evidence: [Click here to enter text.](#)

✓ Example or evidence: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Response to “Should You Have a Pet in Your Classroom?”

Summary of the central idea(s) of the text: [Click here to enter text.](#)

This article presents and explains many reasons for keeping pets in classrooms. The outline below shows one reason from the article, and a quote from the article that helps explain that reason. Complete the outline below with another reason from the article, and at least one quote from the article to explain or support that reason.

According to the article, why should schools allow pets in classrooms?

One reason the article gives is... **Pets in classrooms teach children responsibility.**

Write a quote from the article that explains or supports this reason.

“Raising pets in the classroom helps students to understand the needs of the animals and how much commitment is truly needed to keep animals comfortable and healthy.”

According to the article, why should schools allow pets in classrooms?

Another reason the article gives is...[Click here to enter text.](#)

Write a quote from the article that explains or supports this reason.

✓ [Click here to enter text.](#)

Response to “Leave Animals Out of the Classroom”

Summary of the central idea(s) of the text: [Click here to enter text.](#)

The author of this text takes a clear position on this topic. However, there are places in the text that mention the other side. Use the table below to record quotes from the text that show both sides of this argument.

Animals should not be in classrooms	Animals should be in classrooms
<u>Quote</u> from the text that shows this side: Click here to enter text.	<u>Quote</u> from the text that shows this side: Click here to enter text.

The author of this text takes a clear position on this topic. What is one piece of evidence from the article that supports the author’s clear position on whether we should have animals in classrooms? [Click here to enter text.](#)

How does this evidence support the author’s position on whether or not we should have animals in classrooms? [Click here to enter text.](#)

Response to “Pets Enhance Learning”

Summary of the central idea(s) of the text: [Click here to enter text.](#)

This article presents and explains many reasons for keeping pets in classrooms. The outline below shows one reason from the article that helps explain that reason. Complete the outline below with another reason from the article, and at least one quote from the article to explain or support that reason. Write to explain how the quote you chose supports the author’s point.

According to the article, why should schools allow pets in classrooms?

One reason the article gives is... Kids with pets are healthier.

Write a quote from the article that explains or supports this reason.

- **“Studies show that children from families with pets are better equipped to fight off infection than kids from non-pet households, showing significantly higher levels of immune system performance.”**

According to the article, why should schools allow pets in classrooms?

Another reason the article gives is...[Click here to enter text.](#)

Write a quote from the article that explains or supports this reason. [Click here to enter text.](#)

How does this quote support the author’s point about pets in the classroom? [Click here to enter text.](#)

Writing Task

Imagine that your task is to convince your school principal either to allow pets in classrooms, or not allow pets in classrooms, based on the video and articles that you used for research. Write an argument essay stating and explaining your position on this issue.

Make sure you clearly state a claim supporting pets in classrooms or not allowing pets in classrooms, and then support that claim with evidence from the texts you've read and watched.

Be sure to:

- ✓ Quickly plan how you will organize this letter – use the space below to plan.
- ✓ Introduce the claim and organize the reasons and evidence clearly.
- ✓ Support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
- ✓ Use words, phrases, and clauses to clarify the relationships among claim(s) and reasons, such as *for example*, *for instance*, *in addition*, *moreover*, etc.
- ✓ Maintain the formal style of a persuasive essay/letter.
- ✓ Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the argument.
- ✓ Quote directly from the texts you read and watched.

Plan for argument essay: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Name: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Date: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Core: [Click here to enter text.](#)

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[Click here to enter text.](#)