

**Writing situation:**

Animals have the same five senses as humans. However, sometimes these senses are highly developed and become valuable “super senses.”

**Animals’ Special Senses**

Senses	Animals
Sight	Raptors or birds of prey have the best eyesight. The buzzard is able to see small animals while circling 15,000 feet in the air. The falcon is able to see clearly even when diving to earth at 100 miles per hour. Owls and cats are able to see in the dark.
Hearing	Cats can identify the tone of a sound and easily locate where it came from. Owls can detect the location of a sound and identify the direction it came from in less than 0.01 of a second. Dolphins use echolocation to move around in murky water. Bats bounce sounds off objects and other animals and can quickly tell the location, directions, and physical qualities of another animal up to 18 feet away.
Taste	A catfish has up to 250,000 taste buds. It could recognize one drop of soda in an enormous swimming pool. Flies and butterflies taste with their feet. They can quickly recognize whether their landing space is tasty food.
Smell	Bears have a superior sense of smell. It lets them identify danger from humans. They can recognize a human scent even many hours after the human has passed by. They can also detect food from a distance. Cats and dogs are able to identify food, enemies, and home territory. Dogs are also able to identify other animals and remember the odor. Sharks can smell a drop of blood from a mile away.
Touch and movement	A catfish has smooth skin and tiny hairs that recognize even the smallest movements. Some insects like the cockroach are able to detect movement of less than one millionth of a millimeter. Crocodiles and alligators have receptors that detect movement and location of other animals in the water.

**Writing directions:**

Write a speech for the school’s science club to explain how one animal’s special sense helps it deal with its environment. Include information from the table and your own ideas in your speech.