

Grade 5, Prompt for Opinion Writing
Common Core Standard W.CCR.1

Name:

The Best Pet

There are many reasons why people own pets. A pet can entertain you, keep you company, or even protect you! Dogs and cats are the most popular pets in America today. Some people prefer an energetic dog and others, a cuddly kitten. Which pet do you think is best?

You will read two articles. One is about the benefits of owning a cat and the other is about the benefits of choosing a dog as a pet. As you read to these texts, think about the advantages of each kind of pet. Which kind of pet is best, a cat or a dog? After you have had a chance to read the articles a second time, you will write an essay that states your opinion and explains your thinking.

For the essay, your focusing question will be: Which kind of pet is best, a cat or a dog? You will explain your thinking with facts and reasons from the articles. Your teacher will also give you a page of "Pet Statistics" which you can use to support your opinion if you would like.

Remember, a good opinion essay:

- Has an introduction
- Clearly states your opinion/claim in a focus statement
- Uses specific evidence from the text(s) to support your opinion and
- explains your thinking
- Groups ideas in paragraphs
- Has a conclusion
- Uses precise language and linking words to connect ideas
- Has correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation

You will have several distance learning days to complete this reading/thinking/writing task. You may take notes right on the articles or on a separate sheet of paper. You may want to take some time to plan your writing before you begin work.

GOOD LUCK! I LOOK FORWARD TO READING YOUR GOOD WORK!