



OKLAHOMA
Education

WRITING/CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
ANCHOR PAPER EXEMPLARS
GRADE 5 OPINION



Writing Topic:

Animals can be entertaining, caring, and helpful. Some animals assist people with day-to-day activities while others are members of the military or a police force. After reading these passages, write an opinion about how you think animals could be useful in a community, a school, or a place of work. Be sure to state your opinion and support it using information presented in both passages.

Before you begin planning and writing your opinion, read the two passages

1. **“Animal Helpers”**
2. **“Military and Police Force Animals”**

Animal Helpers

- 1 Animals can be trained to assist humans with everyday needs and be valuable companions. Even animals you might not expect can be trained to assist humans.
- 2 One example is the miniature horse. Miniature horses usually live to be thirty years old, much longer than an assistance dog. This is important because owners often bond with their helper animals. Over time, the helper animal becomes a close companion. These horses are strong enough to allow their human companions to lean on them for physical support. Miniature horses are also easy to train and are very gentle. As an added bonus, they also have excellent eyesight.
- 3 Ferrets can also help people with disabilities. They are especially helpful to people who have seizures. Seizures happen when the brain stops working correctly. People lose the ability to think or even use their muscles when they have seizures. This can be dangerous because the person can get hurt while his or her body is out of control. Some seizures can even cause damage to the brain. For reasons scientists don't understand, some ferrets can sense when a person is going to have a seizure. These ferrets give their owners warning by trying to get their attention. Some seizure patients have said their



Grade 5 WRITING

ferrets look unhappy when trying to give this warning. The owner can then take medicine so the seizure doesn't happen. If taking medicine is not an option, the owner can get to a safe place before the seizure happens.

- 4 Some people have problems with movement. Some can't use their hands properly. Others can't walk from place to place. These people can also get help from animals. Monkeys are sometimes used for this purpose. There are many different monkey species, but the capuchin is the most common helper animal. The capuchin monkey can do many things for its owner. For example, it can open doors and cabinets. A capuchin monkey may carry things or bring items to its owner.
- 5 Dogs are the most common type of service animal. They can be trained to perform certain tasks to help people with disabilities. Dogs can learn to pick up dropped items and to open and close doors. They can turn on and off lights and carry and retrieve objects. They can be used as guide dogs for people with sight problems. They can even be trained to listen for a door bell or a fire alarm and warn their owners who have difficulty with their hearing.
- 6 Service animals can help people live a better life, and humans are grateful for their help. However, these animals are just serving the purpose they were meant to serve and nothing more.



Military and Police Force Animals

- 1 Animals have been part of the military for hundreds of years. Dogs and horses have served as animal soldiers in times of war. They have also been trained to play an important role on a police force.

Four-Legged Fighters

- 2 Military working dogs have also completed missions under terrible conditions. One of these brave dogs was Buster. Buster served as a Messenger War Dog during World War II. Buster carried messages through heavy machine gun fire during a battle on Morotai Island. Buster carried messages telling troops to hold their position. The soldiers got the extra help they needed, and Buster's actions saved seventeen men. His bravery also helped the U.S. defeat the Japanese in that battle.
- 3 Military working dogs are still used today. A military working dog was a fundamental part of raiding Osama Bin Laden's hideout in 2011. In 2012, the U.S. Congress passed two bills to help the treatment of these dogs once their work overseas is completed. In the past, the military classified military working dogs as equipment, and they were left behind once a mission was complete. These new bills reclassify the dogs as "canine members of the Armed Forces," which means the dogs will be brought home and adopted by new families as part of their "retirement" from the military.
- 4 Horses have also been used by the military during wars. Reckless was a horse so heroic during the Korean War in the 1950s that she was promoted to Sergeant by the U.S. Marines. She was trained to step over communication lines and to get down when there was incoming fire. She also learned to ignore the sounds of battle. After just a couple of trips, she learned the routes to deliver supplies to the troops on her own. In one day, Reckless made 51 trips to carry supplies and ammunition to soldiers on the front lines. She became the marines' mascot and was allowed to roam freely through the camp. She even was allowed to come inside the soldiers' tents to sleep on cold nights. After the war ended, Reckless was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal.



Team Players

- 5 Dogs and horses also have been trained to work with law enforcement. Police dogs are often called K-9s, and the most common breed used is the German Shepherd. These dogs have a keen sense of smell. They can be trained to sniff out drugs and explosive materials. They are also used to search and find missing people or objects. They protect police officers and often help with crowd control. They also make good guard dogs. Police who patrol on horseback are called the mounted police. These horses are trained to keep order during major events. They learn to move through crowds and in heavy traffic and learn not to react to loud noises. Some are used for park patrol through wooded areas. Since horses can travel where vehicles cannot, they are used for search missions through rugged areas.
- 6 Over the years, working dogs and horses have played an important role in the military and on police forces. They have even helped save many human lives. These animals were able to get the job done during difficult times. They have been honored as important members of our military and police forces.



WRITING/CONSTRUCTED REPOSE
RUBRIC

OSTP Grade 5 Holistic Writing Rubric



Score	Description
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content is well-suited for the audience and task/purpose and the writing maintains a clear focus; ideas are fully developed. • Organization is strong, creating unity and coherence; contains an engaging introduction, effective conclusion and logical sequencing with smooth, effective transitions. • Word choice is varied and conveys meaning; language is effective and connects to the audience. • Sentence structure is clear and correct, and the writing demonstrates a rich variety of structures, types, and lengths; any errors are minor. • The writing demonstrates appropriate control of grammar, usage, and mechanics; errors are minor and do not affect readability.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content is adequate for the audience and task/purpose and the writing has an evident focus; ideas are somewhat developed. • Organization is adequate, creating some unity and coherence; introduction and conclusion are appropriate, and sequencing is logical with limited transitions. • Word choice is general and includes some variety; language is adequate and attempts to connect to the audience. • Sentence structure is correct and the writing demonstrates an adequate variety of structures, types, and lengths; errors may be present but do not interfere with fluency. • The writing demonstrates adequate control of grammar, usage, and mechanics; errors are noticeable but do not significantly affect readability.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content is inconsistent for the audience and task/purpose and the writing has an unclear focus; ideas are minimally developed and may be listed. • Organization lacks clarity, demonstrating weak unity and coherence; introduction and conclusion are ineffective, there is little or random sequencing, and transitions are limited. • Word choice lacks precision and variety; language may be inappropriate, ineffective, simplistic, or vague. • Sentence structure lacks control and the writing demonstrates limited variety of structures, types, and lengths; errors interfere with fluency. • The writing demonstrates limited control of grammar, usage, and mechanics; errors are distracting and may interfere with readability.
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content is irrelevant for the audience and task/purpose and the writing has a confusing focus; ideas are repetitive or lack development. • Organization lacks logical direction; there is no evidence of unity or coherence. • Word choice is extremely limited or inaccurate; language fails to communicate meaning. The writing may be too short to demonstrate variety. • Sentence structure is inappropriate and the writing demonstrates no variety of structures, types, and lengths; errors interfere with fluency. The writing may be too short to demonstrate control of sentence structures. • The writing demonstrates minimal control of grammar, usage, and mechanics; errors are numerous and impede readability.

Responses receive a score designation of “unscorable” a performance level of "Below Standard" if they meet any of the following conditions:

- restatement of the task (prompt) or a refusal
- in a language other than English
- illegible, incomprehensible, or otherwise indecipherable
- about a topic different from the assigned task



WRITING/CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
HOLISTIC ANCHOR PAPER
EXEMPLARS

Writing Topic:

Animals can be entertaining, caring, and helpful. Some animals assist people with day-to-day activities while others are members of the military or a police force. After reading these passages, write an opinion about how you think animals could be useful in a community, a school, or a place of work. Be sure to state your opinion and support it using information presented in both passages.

In my opinion helpers are a great thing to have. We have in schools, police and military forces, communities, or place of work. If we had helper dogs in schools ~~over~~ across America they might be able to help warn when an intruder is in the building, or things of that sort.

Helpers in a community

I think it's a great thing to have helpers in communities, because helpers can patrol areas and help keep residences safe. K-9s are ~~help~~ very helpful in communities. They can help keep the elderly safe in and out of their homes. They can help keep children safe while playing in their communities. Miniature horses can also be useful in a community. They can let someone that might be weak and have

trouble ~~to~~ standing, but might on the horse for support.

Military and Police Force Helpers

In my opinion its ~~sure~~ awesome to have animals ~~one~~ on different forces today. Its amazing what animals can ~~do~~ be trained to do. It is very ~~and~~ sad that the military used to create K-9 helpers like machines, but I am very glad that changed. It is very cool that the helpers are created just like a regular officer of the armed forces. It is also very cool that horse are apart of police forces across America today. K-9s are very important helpers in are police and military today. It is very important that we keep are helpers safe.

K-9 Helpers at School

K-9 helpers are a very good helper to have around. It would be a very good thing to have helper dogs at school, because she could be like an alarm system. Maybe for when there is an intruder, Maybe a student has drugs or a gun. Also she could help out

on the playground playground so, maybe it could make sure there ~~is~~ ^{isn't} not any tobacco uses, or things like that. K-9 helpers could maybe help ~~and~~ walk kids home or make sure they go to the right place.

Helicopter Work

Helpers at work would be a great thing - I think the ferrets would be the best, because they are small. They could help warn the person if the were about to have a seizure. It could also warn the other employees so they might could help that person.

With all that said all helpers are important. With out them the world might not be what it is today.

Score Point 4 ID 1594359591

The response maintains a clear focus and ideas are fully developed. The opinion is clear and focused on how animals are useful in schools, by police or military forces, in communities, or places of work. Ideas are fully developed with the use of relevant text-based facts and examples about K-9s, miniature horses, and ferrets. The student clearly summarizes information and expresses an insightful perspective when commenting on key examples --(help when an intruder is in the building, keep elderly and children safe, also warn other employees, world might not be what it is today.) The introduction quickly establishes a positive opinion, and supporting evidence is strongly presented with effective sequencing and transition. Word choice conveys meaning; language is effective and connects to the audience with a positive tone supporting the importance of animal helpers. Varied sentence structure is mostly correct, but the writing demonstrates errors in usage (are/our, weather/whether, there/their) and mechanics; however, they do not overtly impede with the overall purpose for writing.

Grade 5 WRITING

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I think animals are vary helpful. Their used in every day activities. Their also used in, the police, Navy, U.S. marines, and in other armed forces.

In the armed forces animals like dogs, and horses are used to send orders and ammunition to people on the first line. The dogs also help the Military find Osama bin ladin in 2011. A dog named Buster saved 17 men and helped defeat the Japanese. A horse named Reckless was in the Korean war delvering messages to soilders beond communication lines and was promoted to Sergeant by the U.S. Marines.

Animals are also used in the police force. Their used to find drugs. There also used to find people under debris or rocks from.

land slides or explosions. Horses are used to patrol the parks or wooded areas where cars can't go because there so big.

Animals are also good companions for people with disabilities. Ferrets are good because the can sense when seizures are about to happen. They can warn their owner by making a sound so the owner can take medicine or get to a safe place before it happens.

Their also used in every day activities. They can be used to play with kids outside or just to sit down and relax. So I do think animals are varey helpful. They can do stuff that people can't do.

Score point 3 ID 1594323733

The student addresses the prompt and has developed three ways that animals can be helpful: military use, police force, and every day in the community for disabled individuals. Evidence is adequately selected from both passages to support the writer's ideas. Ideas are somewhat developed as the opportunity to elaborate on the important work performed by animals would further connect to the task. For example, there is a lack of the heroic details associated with Buster and Reckless's actions during their service. The introduction and conclusion are appropriate and succinctly give the opinion. The response is logically sequenced, and a general coherence is found with limited transitions. Word choice is general and appropriate. Sentence structure is correct, and the writing demonstrates adequate control of grammar, usage (their/there/they are), and mechanics; minor errors are noticeable but do not affect readability.

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People around the world use animals for different things. The police force and military use them and ~~blinds~~ people use them. I think there are plenty things a dog or horse can do in a community, school, or place of work.

You can use a dog in a community to help the blind or ill. Or a dog can keep kids safe at school when their coming or leaving school or at resusc. You can use dogs at a place of work like police force or military. So

over all animals are very useful they are not just here to be entertaining, they are also sweet caring and helpful. I think everybody should have an animal so you can look after each other.

So there you go you have my opinion about animals. I think animals are just not fun, but they help us so very much. From military to helping the ill or blind. Dogs and other animals are life savers. Animals are life savers because, Buster saved seventeen men in the actions.

Score Point 2 ID 1593029629

Content is inconsistent for the task. The writing has an unclear focus; it begins with an opinion on dogs and the examples are minimally developed --examples of where a dog may be used are listed (community, school, police, or military) but little detail is given to how they are useful helpers (ill and blind). The response demonstrates weak unity and coherence; introduction and conclusion (unclear attempt with a statement about Buster) are ineffective; there is an attempt at a little sequencing; and transitions are present but simplistic (Or and So.) Word choice lacks precision and variety; language is simplistic and conveys a basic meaning: "I think animals are just not fun, but they help us so very much." There is limited variety of structures, with most sentences taking repetitive forms (You can, I think, and So there). Limited control of grammar, usage, and mechanics is demonstrated with errors in usage and mechanics being most prevalent.

Grade 5 WRITING

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Why animals are
important

I think that animals would be good for helping in side and out side. Helping my dad out side, my ~~mom~~ grampa, and me. in side.

The reason is because my dad can't do big jobs I think. Mom, grampa, and me are stuck in the house most of the time. My grampa can't do very much stuff and where being doing other chors.

We need we need the hole family helped out. That is why I think animals are important because they help out.

Score Point 1 ID 1594188595

The response has a confusing focus to the task. The content is inappropriate to the purpose for writing; it does not address how animals are useful in a community, school, or a place of work. The student gives the opinion that animals would be good for helping. Ideas, centered to personal family reasons, are sparse and lack development. There is no evidence elicited from the passages in support of the opinion. The response shows a little evidence of organization. The concluding sentence reiterates the opening opinion appropriately for grade level, but a lack of transition contributes to minimal overall coherence. The word choice is extremely limited; language fails to communicate much meaning beyond the simplest terms --help, need, family, all of which contributes to a diminishing purpose for writing. Student demonstrates a little variety of sentence structures and minimal control of grammar, usage, and mechanics. Based on the length and complexity of the response, a few errors in syntax interfere and minimal control in mechanics is noticeable in the response.