

Unit: Nonfiction Writing with Power Sample

Grade: 5

Task: Student Work Sample

Title: Dogs

The following student artifact has been retyped; please see a copy of the original student work at the end of this document. Comments about student work can be found in the box on the right.

Dogs

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Introduction

Have you ever wondered what role a dog plays in the world? Well, dogs have done many things that people have saluted them for doing. In this book, you will learn about the supplies you will need, having a great dog, different breeds, the proper food a dog should eat, how to choose a dog, and how dogs are used today. As you read, ask yourself if you are responsible enough to own a dog.

Supplies

There are many supplies you will need to purchase in order to have a dog. To keep a dog clean and fresh looking, make sure you have a towel, a hairbrush, and shampoo. You will need shampoo to clean the dog once in a while. Don't use human shampoo; it can make the dog's fur stiff or make the fur fall off easily. You should comb the dog every week so there isn't too much dead hair on the body.

Next, for your dog to eat healthy (more information on page 8), make sure you have food, water, a bowl to eat and drink, and some treats/biscuits. You should use treats/biscuits when you are training your dog. After you feed your dog, make sure you give them water, so they're mouth is clean, like we do with ourselves. Make sure you have a bowl so that your dog doesn't get in a **habit** of drinking from the sink or eating from the ground.

Finally, some things aren't necessary such as nail clippers, blankets, and clothes/jackets. Owners use nail clippers if they don't walk the dog often. If you are worried that your dog will become cold, buy a blanket. Clothes and jackets are usually used to protect your dog from rain or snow or if you want them to look better.

A Good Dog

In this section, you will learn how to have a great house dog. First, you will need to house train your dog. Otherwise, your dog will get used to doing their business in the house! You don't want to step in pee! If it is necessary for your dog to do their business in the house, lay some training pads around the house. If you want your dog to have privacy, put the

Annotations

Overall: The writer used different kinds of information to teach about dogs. She used personal stories, life lessons, observations, facts and procedures in her writing.

Lead: The writer got his readers interested in the topic by asking a question and letting the readers know the subtopics he would develop throughout his piece.

Transitions: The writer used phrases such as *next*, *finally*, *in this section*, *in this chapter*, *in this part* and *also* to show a sequence of subtopics that built off of each other.

Description: The writer worked to convey meaning to her readers by using specific vocabulary of experts, storytelling, and summary with a variety of text features. The writer used an inviting tone and had clear communication of ideas.

training pad in a cardboard box. They may get in a habit of peeing in the house.

Next, you need to give them exercise. If you don't, their nails will become long, they'll become fat, and they will become lazy. Just imagine. Your dog will be sitting in the same spot the whole time! You don't want that to happen!

Finally, train the basics. Show them how to fetch, sit, stay, and heel. Sit and stay come in handy when you have to go somewhere such as the basement, garage, or outside. Most owners use heel when they are taking their dog for a walk so they don't drag them everywhere. Fetch is just used to train your dog to run after an item and receive the item. I would recommend teaching the tricks in the order of sit, stay, heel, and then fetch.

Different Breeds

In this chapter, you will learn about the different **breeds** of dogs. A breed is another word for types when relating to mammals. First, there is the athletic dog group. In that, there are Golden Retriever's, Labrador Retriever's, Great Dane's, Alaskan Husky's, and Siberian Husky's. Many people get **confused** with Golden Retriever's and Labrador Retrievers. Golden Retrievers are shorter, fatter, and furrier. Labrador Retrievers are slim, and are usually are show dogs. Siberian Huskies and Alaskan Huskies are used in sled racing. Sled racing is usually don't in Alaska.

Next, there are lap dogs. Some are Dachshund's, Yorkshire Terrier's, Shih Tzu's, and Chihuahua's. All lap dogs bark a lot. If you want a calm and quiet house, you might not want a lap dog.

Finally, there are sheep dogs. They help farmers herd the sheep. They push them into the area they are supposed to stay in. This saves them a lot of work. To get an idea, some sheepdogs are collies, and English sheepdogs. See, they don't have to have the word "sheepdog" in the breed's name. Some other dogs are St. Barnard's, Poodle's, Beagle's and Dalmatian's.

Annotations

Elaboration: The writer explained different subtopics about her topic using details, facts, names and examples. The writer used pictures and compare and contrast charts to help teacher her readers. The writer used information from her own personal experiences, observations and reading books.

Ending: The writer wrote a conclusion that restated his opinions about his topic in a new way with a new thought.

Organization: The writer organized her writing into separate sections using headings to highlight different subtopics. Each section had information that supported the subtopic with paragraphs to separate ideas.

Spelling: The writer used resources to be sure the words were spelled correctly, including specific vocabulary words.

Proper Food

In this part, you will learn what dogs eat and what not to eat. First, you need to know which companies give healthy, **nutritious** food. Some are “IAMS”, “Pedigree”, “Healthy Choice”, and “Blue”. Make sure they don’t have a lot of preservatives; they can ruin your dog’s health.

Next, don’t feed your dog sugar, salt, or pepper. Sugar may be fed, but a lot can ruin their health, so be careful. Same applies with salt. If you give too much, it also ruins their health. Pepper is dangerous to dogs. It makes their breathing stop and they can die.

Finally, don’t feed your dog anything that has or is juice. Even raisins, since that is just a grape dried up. The juice has some chemicals that can ruin your dog’s health and digestive system. Some foods are tomatoes, oranges, lemons, grapefruit, fruit/vegetable juice, cilantro, dough which contains a lot of butter, and eggplant. Even soda counts.

How to Choose

In this chapter, you will learn how to choose the right dog for you. First, you need to have information. You need to see the records. Check if they’ve had /have rabies, a regular sickness, and other things like that. You may be comfortable with any of these things. Figure out who owns the dog. Getting a puppy is easier after a year or so. You will be able to feed the dog different food than they regularly have, you can teach them some neat tricks for them to remember, and more for them to remember.

Also, where do you get a dog from? Well, there are many places. Some places are kennels, pounds, breeders, and pet stores. I don’t recommend pet stores because you don’t know what they do with the dogs/puppies. A breeder would be safer because they are a human taking care, not a company. Some people go to kennels and pounds to save a dog’s life, since they kill the animal in a certain amount of time.

Lastly, DON’T GET A STRAY DOG! You never know where they have gone. No one can figure out if they had ticks, fleas, or lice. They never take a bath, besides when it rains. Stray dogs eat garbage for a meal! You may get sick from them!

Annotations

Punctuation: The writer used commas to set off introductory parts of sentences (in this part, next, finally, chapter, etc.) and to make long complex sentences clear without run-on sentences. The writer used quotation marks to identify specific names and bold words to highlight key vocabulary.

Dogs Today

In the final chapter, you will learn how dogs are used today. They are used as service dogs, hunting dogs, pets, and search and rescue dogs. Each dog that works as a service dog has a special harness. There are two groups of service dogs. There are “Eyes for the **Blind**” dogs and “Ears for the **Deaf**” dogs. The “Ears for the Blind” dogs help by turning lights on and off, making sure they stay on the right path, opening the fridge, and many more jobs. “Ears for the Deaf” dogs help by telling when someone honks from their car, where it’s not safe to go and many more jobs.

Secondly, there are hunting dogs. Hunting dogs **navigate** the hunter toward the **prey**. The prey could be a bird, a fish, or some other animals. In some countries they don’t allow dogs to kill other animals. Wild dogs are hunting dogs but they are too ferocious for humans use.

Also, there pet dogs. Pet dogs only have the job of taking care of the family. Owners have enjoyed having a pet dog over the years. Don’t forget, a dog is a man’s best friend!

Last but not least, there are Search and Rescue dogs. They help people who are lost and hurt. For example, if a little boy was missing, police would have the help of search and rescue dogs. The dogs are released to sniff the boy. When they smell the boy, they start barking for the police to come. After they come, they bring him to safety. That is they’re job.

Conclusion

Dogs have been a great companion over thousands of years. If there weren’t dogs today, what would we be doing? Would we be trying to guess where we are going in our house? I think it’s important to have a companion in life. Everyone would be lazy and sitting around. There is always a moment for a new family member in the house. Go somewhere in the city. There will be a dog waiting for you.

Glossary

Blind– when you can't see anything because you were born like that or you were in an accident that made you blind.

Breed– another word for types when relating to mammals besides humans.

Companion– someone who is like a friend, just they live with you and makes you comfortable.

Confused– when you have two or more things going on at the same time and you don't know which one to focus on.

Deaf– when you can't hear anything because you were born like that or you were in an accident that made you deaf.

Digest– to eat something that goes all the way down to your stomach.

Habit– doing something you can't stop doing until you practice enough that you stop.

