Argument Essay
Do Zoos Help or Harm Animals?

Directions:
• Read the five texts that are included in your packet.
• Decide what you think: Do zoos help or harm animals? Choose one side of the argument and write an essay convincing others of your opinion.
• As you read, ask yourself the guiding question, “Do zoos help or harm animals?”
• Use your notes included in the packet and your t-chart to guide you as you take a side of this historical debate.
• Create a boxes and bullets graphic organizer to help you plan your essay.
• In the introduction to your essay, write a claim stating whether or not you think zoos help or harm animals.
• Be sure to list the titles of the texts that you use in your essay.
• Be sure to list the evidence that supports your point of view and your inference/claim. List the evidence in order of strongest support of your claim to the weaker details that support your claim.
• Write as much as you can, as quickly as you can. You may use several sheets of loose-leaf paper. I expect that this essay will be about two pages.
• Use the rubric and especially the writing checklist to ensure that you include all that is required to make your essay powerful.

• In your writing, make sure you:
  ➢ Write your inference/claim in your introduction.
  ➢ Use transition words to start new paragraphs and to introduce new examples from the text.
  ➢ Give at several examples from the text as your evidence to support your inference/claim.
  ➢ Use statements such as, “I know this because in paragraph ____it states,...”
  ➢ Write a conclusion.

• Check your writing for:
  ➢ spelling
  ➢ capitalization of proper nouns
  ➢ capitalization of the beginning of sentences
  ➢ punctuation
  ➢ indentation of each new paragraph
  ➢ interesting word choice
  ➢ See the rubric for more details of expectations.