

DIRECTIONS:

Should Animals be Allowed in Classrooms?

- 1) Read and annotate all of the directions before you begin your tasks.
- 2) Read texts #1, #2, and #3, found in the "Should Animals be Allowed in Classrooms?" Articles Packet.
- 3) Annotate ALL THREE TEXTS found in the packet:
 - a) Use a highlighter.
 - b) Write at least five questions in the margins of the articles.
 - c) Use symbols such as stars, question marks, exclamation points, and underlines.
 - d) You will be earning a grade for each of the annotated texts.
- 4) As you are reading, begin thinking about whether or not animals should be allowed in classrooms.
- 5) As you are reading the texts, highlight the PROS AND CONS of whether or not animals should be allowed in classrooms. Use two different color highlighters: one color for pros (should be allowed), and one different color for cons (should not be allowed).
- 6) Highlight as many pieces of evidence (quotes or facts) that prove or support your claim.
- 7) Complete tasks 1-7 in this packet.

- 8) After reading and annotating the texts, and after completing the tasks 1-4 in this packet, decide on your claim:
 - Animals should be allowed in the classroom.
 - Animals should not be allowed in the classroom.
- 9) REREAD ALL OF THE QUOTES THAT YOU HAVE HIGHLIGHTED AND REREAD YOUR ANNOTATIONS.
- 10) Should animals be allowed in classrooms? Write a research-based argument essay, convincing readers that animals should or should not be allowed in classrooms.
- 11) Plan how you will organize this essay - use the OUTLINE PLAN space found in this packet to plan your essay.
- 12) USE THE NEW YORK STATE WRITING RUBRIC TO GUIDE YOUR WRITING.
- 13) USE THE RACEEECEEECEEEER GRAPHIC ORGANIZER AND FORMAT TO HELP YOU ORGANIZE YOUR ESSAY.
- 14) Be sure to check the RACEEECEEECEEEER Rubric to make sure that your essay is of the highest caliber.
- 15) USE THE SENTENCE PROMPTS AND TRANSITION WORDS FOUND IN YOUR "What does the text SAY," "What does the author MEAN," and "Why does it MATTER" **TRANSITION AND SENTENCE PROMPTS PACKET**. Students who use these transition prompts tend to score a higher grade on their writing than students who do not use these writing prompts.
- 16) In the introduction to your essay, write a claim stating your point of view and stance. Should animals be allowed in classrooms?
- 17) Support your claim with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using

- credible sources, and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
- 18) Use as many descriptive words, sophisticated vocabulary, and transition words as you can as you write your essay.
 - 19) Use transition words, phrases, and clauses: such as, for example, for instance, in addition, moreover, etc.
 - 20) Use at least three quotes to support your stance/opinion/point of view. Be sure that your quotes are only one sentence long. Be sure to use quotation marks.
 - 21) Provide a concluding statement restate that follows from the argument. Be sure to include a compelling conclusion. Be sure that you restate your claim in your conclusion.
 - 22) Maintain the formal style of essay writing.
 - 23) Your essay response will most likely be more than five paragraphs long.
 - 24) Write as much as you can, as quickly as you can.
 - 25) Be sure to have someone help you proofread your essay.
 - a) Is all of your spelling correct?
 - b) Did you capitalize proper nouns?
 - c) Did you capitalize beginning of sentences?
 - d) Did you put periods, question marks, or exclamation points at the end of your sentences?
 - e) Did you indent each new paragraph?
 - f) Did you use interesting word choice?

g) See the RACEEECEEECEEEER Rubric for more details of expectations.

Task #1: Complete the Pros and Cons T-Chart

Should animals be allowed in classrooms?

Animals in Classrooms

Should be allowed (pros)	Should not be allowed (cons)
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Task #2: Response to the video
"Why Dogs Reduce Stress in the Classroom"

What is one important reason that the video gives as to why dogs reduce stress? Name the reason and list more than one detailed example or other specific evidence the video gives to support that reason.

CLAIM: According to the video, what is one important way that dogs reduce stress in the classroom?

What examples or other specific pieces of evidence does the video give to support this claim?

First Example/Evidence:

Second Example/Evidence:

Task #3: Response to "Should You Have a Pet in Your Classroom?"

This article presents and explains many reasons for keeping pets in classrooms. The outline below shows one reason from the article, and a quote from the article that helps explain that reason. Complete the outline below with **another reason** from the article, and **at least one quote** from the article to explain or support that reason.

Write a quote from the article that explains or supports this reason.

"Raising pets in the classroom helps students to understand the needs of the animals and how much commitment is truly needed to keep animals comfortable and healthy."

According to the article, why should schools allow pets in classrooms?
One reason the article gives is: Pets in classrooms teach children responsibility.

According to the article, why should schools allow pets in classrooms?

Another reason the article gives is: _____

Write a quote from the article that explains or supports this reason.

Task #4: Response to "Leave Animals Out of the Classroom"

The author of this text takes a clear position on this topic. However, there are places in the text that mention the other side. Use the table below to record quotes from the text.

Animals should not be in classrooms

CONS: Quote from the text that shows this side

Animals should be in classrooms

PROS: Quote from the text that shows this side

The author of this text takes a clear position on this topic. **What is one piece of evidence from the article that supports the author's clear position on whether we should have animals in classrooms?**

How does this evidence support the author's position on whether or not we should have animals in classrooms?

Task #5: Should animals be allowed in the classroom?

What is your point of view, stance or opinion?

Imagine that your task is to convince your science teacher either to allow pets in classrooms, or not allow pets in classrooms, based on the video and articles that you used for research. Write an opinion essay stating and explaining your position on this issue. Convince your science teacher of your point of view.

Make sure you clearly state a claim supporting allowing pets in classrooms or not allowing pets in classrooms, and then support that claim with evidence from the texts you've read and watched.

Task #6: Create a quick plan to help organize your essay.

Should animals be allowed in classrooms?

OUTLINE PLAN

USE THE RACEEECEEECEEEER GRAPHIC ORGANIZER
TO HELP YOU WRITE YOUR OUTLINE AND PLAN FOR YOUR ESSAY.

Task #7: Write a research-based argument essay.

Should Animals be Allowed in Classrooms?

Write a research-based argument essay, convincing readers that animals either should or should not be allowed in classrooms. As you write, use information and quotations from the video, the texts, and the chart to support your claim.

Be sure to:

- Make a quick plan for your essay.
- Introduce the topic.
- Take a position: make clear whether you believe animals should or should not be allowed in classrooms.
- Create body paragraphs to organize your reasons.
- Include relevant facts and details from the sources you've read and watched.
- Use transition words to link the information and ideas.
- Write a conclusion.

Name: _____

ARTICLES

Should Animals be Allowed in Classrooms?

PROS AND CONS

Three Non-fiction Text Samples

Fifth Grade Research-Based Opinion Writing



Name: _____

Directions

Should Animals be Allowed in Classrooms?

PROS AND CONS

Tasks 1-7

Fifth Grade Research-Based Opinion Writing

