

## Student Sample A

### Grade 5 Opinion Writing Performance Task: Zoos

#### SCORES AND COMMENTARY

- **Bold** words and phrases are taken from the Student Language Writing Scoring Guide: Grades 3-5 for Informative/Explanatory and Argument Writing and Research Projects.
- *Italicized* words are direct quotes from the student writing.

#### Ideas and Content: 4

**Writer's purpose and main ideas are easy to understand. An opinion is clearly stated** *I strongly agree with having zoos.*, **and reasons** *research, education, and to keep animals from extinction* **are given.** *These are just a few reasons why we need zoos.*

#### Organization: 4

**Information is grouped to make sense. The introduction is developed and identifies the topic.** *Do you think that we should have zoos? I strongly agree with having zoos....* **The concluding section is about the opinion or information presented.** The writer restates their opinion and reiterates the reasons of support that were provided in the essay. **Transition words** (e.g., *One reason, Zoos also, Another reason, That is how*) **connect ideas and make the writing easy to follow. Paragraph breaks help the reader.**

#### Voice: 4

**Parts are sincere or honest.** *I strongly believe that we should have zoos.... This is how zoos help us with research.* **The writing helps the reader to engage and pay attention to the information and ideas.** *This means that it is a safe place to learn as well as fun! That is how zoos teach kids.* **The writer seems interested in the topic.** *That is how breeding programs are good.*

#### Word Choice: 4

**Words get the message across. Words** (e.g., *offer, learned, next generation, according, important*) **have variety. The writing includes many content vocabulary words** (e.g., *research, education, extinction, biologist, breeding, species*) **about the topic.**

#### Sentence Fluency: 4

**Sentences begin in different ways** (e.g., *Do you think, Zoos offer, Zoos also help with, I also learned, This means*). **Some sentences are shorter and some sentences are longer** (refer to the first and last paragraphs).

**Conventions: 4**

**Sentences end where they should with the correct punctuation mark. Common words** (e.g., *think, education, animal, adults, believe, opinion*) **are spelled correctly. Even difficult words** (e.g., *reproduction, horned oryx, biologists, species, endangered, extinction*) **are spelled correctly** (score of 5). **Capital letters are usually correct. Errors require some editing.** The preponderance of evidence supports the score of 4.

**Use of Sources: 4**

**The writer uses information about the topic from sources. Sources 1 and 3 are accurately identified.** The writer was not required to provide a list of sources on this task.