

Student Sample B

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: 2

Writer's purpose and main ideas are not easy to understand; the reader may have to guess at what they are. The writer states conflicting opinions. *I think we should not have zoos and here's why.... We should have zoos but we should only have a certain number of animals. Details are general. Do animals like to see people stick there heads in there cages day after day, week after week , year after year.... but why do we come here... We come here to learn about animals.... I think we should put all animals on walch so the world can get the animal's population up more. Details are off-topic and confusing. We are running out of animals in the wild because of zoos and people's private zoos are keeping a lot more animals then they should have.*

Organization: 3

Some parts of the writing are not easy to follow. *I think we should not have zoos and here's why. Zoos are a fun place to go to you can look at elephants zebras, lion, tiger, bear, ducks but why do we come here* Paragraph two seems to have several different ideas all clumped together. **The concluding section is not about the opinion** stated in the first paragraph, but rather introduces a conflicting opinion. After the writer states, *We should have zoos*, they insert a totally new idea not previously addressed, *but we should only have a certain number of animals.* **Transition words are missing** (score of 2) except for the use of the word “*but*” in a few of the sentences. **Paragraph breaks help the reader** (score of 4). This writing exemplifies descriptors at various score points. A preponderance of evidence supports the score of 3 for organization.

Voice: 3

The writing may not be lively, sincere, exciting, or honest. *That's bad part of the reason is that they get sick and die and they don't get to walk a lot so they die.... We should have zoos but we should only have a certain number of animals.* Although the first sentence, “*Roarrrr!!!!*” is lively, the bulk of the paper **is not lively or exciting.**

Word Choice: 3

Many words are not specific (e.g., *fun, look, come, like, some, get, bad, boring*). **The writing includes some content vocabulary words** (e.g., *elephants, zebras, cramps, population, instincts, tigers*) **about the topic.** It may seem that the writer uses wrong words (*live spain*), but those words should be considered spelling errors and scored in the trait of conventions. The preponderance of evidence supports the score of 3 for word choice.

Sentence Fluency: 3

Parts of the writing are easy to read out loud *I think we should not have zoos and here's why., but other parts are difficult* *That's bad part of the reason is that they get sick and die and they don't get to walk a lot so they die.* **Sentences begin in different ways** (score of 4) (e.g., *I think... Zoos are... We come... My favorite... Do animals... Some animals... We are... Zoos cut... That's bad*). Although many **sentences** appear to be **long and rambling** (score of 2), the problem is really a conventions issue. Many sentences are lacking internal and ending punctuation. When correct punctuation is inserted by the reader (as is the case when scoring for sentence fluency), the writing is **easier to read out loud** (score of 3). A preponderance of evidence supports the score of 3 for sentence fluency.

Conventions: 3

Most sentences end where they should with the correct punctuation mark (score of 3). See comments under sentence fluency above. **Some errors in punctuation** (score of 3). **Common words are spelled correctly** (score of 4) (e.g., *elephants, zebras, favorite, sickness, cramps, population, boring, instincts*). **Incorrect grammar** (score of 2). **Few capital letter errors** (score of 3). The words "A", and "Animals" are incorrectly capitalized. **Errors distract the reader** (score of 3). *Do animals like to see people stick there heads in there cages zoos try to make them feel at home but they stay in there cages day after day, week after week , year after year.*

Use of Sources: 2

The writer uses little information from mainly one source (source 4). **Sources are not identified.** The writer was not required to provide a list of sources on this task.