

# Grade 3, Prompt for Opinion Writing

## Common Core Standard W.CCR.1

(Directions should be read aloud and clarified by the teacher)

Name:

*Before you begin: On a piece of lined paper, write your name and grade, the date, the name of your school and your state, and your teacher's name. You will use this paper for writing.*

### **The Best Pet**

There are many reasons why people own pets. A pet can entertain you, keep you company or even protect you! Dogs and cats are the most popular pets in America today. Some people prefer an energetic dog and others, a cuddly kitten. Which do you think is best?

Your teacher is going to read two articles aloud. One is about the benefits of owning a cat and the other is about the benefits of choosing a dog as a pet. As you listen to these texts, think about the advantages of each kind of pet. *Which kind of pet is best, a cat or a dog?* After you have had a chance to hear the articles a second time, you will write an essay that states your opinion and explains your thinking.

For the essay, your focusing question will be:

**Which kind of pet is best, a cat or a dog?**

You will explain your thinking with facts and reasons from the articles.

Remember, a good opinion essay:

- *Has an introduction*
- *Clearly states your opinion/claim in a focus statement*
- *Uses specific evidence from the text(s) to support your opinion and explains your thinking*
- *Groups ideas in paragraphs*
- *Has a conclusion*
- *Uses precise language and linking words to connect ideas*
- *Has correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation*

You will have two class periods to complete this reading/thinking/writing task. You may take notes right on the articles or on a separate sheet of paper. You may want to take some time to plan your writing before you begin work. The essay will have a single draft. When you have finished, be sure to proofread your work.

***GOOD LUCK! WE LOOK FORWARD TO READING YOUR GOOD WORK!***

## *Teacher Directions*

### **Which kind of pet is best, a cat or a dog?**

#### **Day 1 (45 minutes)**

- Give out the assignment sheet.
- Read the assignment sheet aloud together and clarify the task for the students.
- Give each student a copy of *Why Cats Make Better Pets than Dogs*. Explain that they may want to underline or take notes on the article as you read it aloud. Read the article aloud.
- Pose the question, "Why might a cat make a good pet?" Remind students to use the article and their notes when thinking through their response. Have students turn and talk to a partner about this question for 3 minutes.
- Give each student a copy of *Why Dogs make Good Pets*. Remind students that they may want to underline or take notes on the article. Read the article aloud.
- Pose the question, "Why might a dog make a good pet?" Remind students to use the article and their notes when thinking through their response. Have students turn and talk to a partner about this question for 3 minutes.
- Explain that tomorrow you will be writing about whether a cat or a dog makes a better pet. Collect the articles and assignment sheets. (Be sure names are on them.)

## *Teacher Directions*

### **Which kind of pet is best, a cat or a dog?**

#### **Day 2 (45 minutes)**

- Return the articles and reread both aloud.
- Ask students to think about both articles. Which pet would be best? Why? Have students turn and talk to a partner about this. Each student should talk for 3 minutes.
- Return the assignment sheet and reread it aloud.

- Provide lined paper (or a computer if your students are accustomed to composing on a keyboard) and give students the remainder of the period to write. The writing should be completed individually, without help.
- When the period is over, explain that students may finish writing and proofread tomorrow. Collect student work and materials.

**Day 3** (45 minutes)

- Return student work and materials. Students may be given access to a dictionary, thesaurus, spell check or grammar check.
- Give students the remainder of the period to finish writing and proofreading.

Name:

# Why Cats Make Better Pets than Dogs

Should you get that cute little puppy or a cuddly kitten? Deciding between a cat and a dog can be difficult. However, cats as pets do have some advantages.

## Grooming

Cats bathe themselves. Most do not even need brushing. Dogs are more likely to need help from their owners in keeping clean.

## Companionship

Cats enjoy being alone. You can leave them home alone for the day while you go to school. Dogs, however, need company. A dog needs much more of your time.

## Exercise

Cats and dogs both need daily exercise. However, a cat needs much less exercise than a dog. Most dogs need to be taken for walk at least twice a day, even in the rain. Your cat will probably be happy to chase a ball in your living room.

## Noise

Dogs can bark at all hours of the day or night. Cats sleep most of the day and are much quieter. They are unlikely to disturb your neighbors.

## Training

Dogs need training to live with people. They need to be taught not to jump on people, how to sit and stay, and many other things. You may even need to teach your dog to lie down so you can have some quiet time. Cats can be trained to fetch a ball or walk on a leash, but these lessons are just for fun. You don't need to train your cat to have a good pet.

Both cats and dogs can be wonderful family pets. Each can be affectionate and playful, but cats are much easier to care for. Maybe a cat is the right pet for you!

*This article was adapted for classroom use from "Reasons Why Cats Make Better Pets than Dogs" by Dee Em, eHow Contributor <http://www.ehow.com>*

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Name:

# Why Dogs Make Good Pets

Thinking about getting a new pet? One of the most popular pets is a dog. Dogs make great pets for many reasons.

## Companions

Dogs are patient and make great listeners. Many people tell dogs things they can't tell anyone else. Dogs are great for someone who lives alone or needs company.

## Friends

Most dogs are curious. They want to meet other people and animals. Owners are likely to meet others while out walking their dogs. Dogs are good conversation starters. They make it easy to meet new people.

## Health

Dogs can make you healthier. Studies show that dog owners are less likely to get sick. When they do get sick, they get well quicker.

## Safety

Most dogs will bark if there is danger. Dogs can scare off intruders or warn their owners of fire. Specially trained dogs can also find missing people, sniff out bombs and drugs and help disabled people.

## Exercise

A dog needs daily exercise. The owner who walks his dog also benefits from this. Daily exercise can help keep you at a healthy weight. It gives you energy. It also strengthens your muscles and bones. Walking and playing with your dog can make you both healthier!

Is a dog the right pet for you? Owning a dog is a big responsibility, but there are many benefits. A dog might just be the perfect pet for you!

*This article was adapted for classroom use from "Why Dogs Make Good Pets" by Cecilia McCormick, eHow Contributor*  
<http://www.ehow.com>

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**File Name: 03P The Best Pet**

**Argument/Opinion**

**Grade 3**

**On-Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt**

**The Best Pet**

**States an opinion**

**Introduces the topic by posing a question**

Are you looking for a now Pet? I'd rekomend a cat. For one thing they aren't that egspensev you could find one on your porch and aboped it. Cat's yushely baeth them sellf. Cat's will sleep with you and can help you cawlm down when you'r upset or mad. Cat's allso don't need training and you can's leave cats home for the day. Cat's don't need much exercise. So if you are looking for a pet maebv see some cat's and you mite find your self a great pet!

**Provides reasons that support the opinion**

**Uses linking words and phrases to connect opinion and reasons**

**Provides a concluding statement**

In this third-grade opinion piece, the writer begins with a question, which introduces the topic and provides some context for the reader. The stated opinion (“*I'd rekomend a cat.*”) provides a clear focus, which is developed with reasons from the source that accompanies the prompt. The reasons given are additive and do not build upon one another; they could be presented in any order. Linking words (“*and*”, “*allso*”, “*so*”) connect opinion to reasons and help create cohesion. The writer creates an organizational structure that states an opinion, lists reasons, and concludes. Both the introduction and conclusion are designed to engage the reader, and each shows a beginning awareness of purpose and audience.

**File Name: 03P The Best Pet**

**Argument/Opinion**

**Grade 3**

**Revised and Edited for Student Use**

### **The Best Pet**

Are you looking for a new pet? I'd recommend a cat. For one thing, they aren't that expensive. You could find one on your porch and adopt it. Cats usually bathe themselves. Cats will sleep with you and can help you calm down when you're upset or mad. Cats also don't need training and you can leave cats home for the day. Cats don't need much exercise. So if you are looking for a pet, maybe you can find some cats, and you might find yourself a great pet!

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**Argument/Opinion**

**Grade 3**

**On Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt**

### **The Best Pet**

Are you looking for a new Pet? I'd recommend a cat. For one thing they aren't that expensive you could find one on your porch and adopt it. Cats usually bathe themselves. Cats will sleep with you and can help you calm down when you're upset or mad. Cats also don't need training and you can't leave cats home for the day. Cats don't need much exercise. So if you are looking for a pet maybe see some cats and you might find yourself a great pet!



**File Name: O3R School Year Time**

**Argument/Opinion  
Grade 3**

**Range of Writing**

**States an opinion**

School Year Time

I do not think school should be year round. Do you think school should be year round? Without summer vacation students would not be able to go on family vacations. If a student wanted to go to a sleepaway camp they would not be able to do it. At camp you learn how to do things on your own. If school was year round older siblings would not have time to teach younger siblings how to swing or climb trees. Teachers would also not have time for vacation. Even if you are not at school you can still learn things. Teachers can also learn things outside of school. Kids need to get their energy out. They can get it out by doing big races. In summer it is very hot indoors and children would be thinking about outside and not school. Children usually like warm or hot weather. I know that towards the end of the year I look forwards to summer vacation and I think other children do to. If a student wants to learn more things in the summer, they can take classes about that subject. I do not think school needs to be year round!

**Introduces the topic**

**Provides reasons  
that support the  
opinion**

**Uses linking words and  
phrases to connect opinion  
and reasons**

**Creates an  
organizational  
structure that lists  
reasons**

**Provides a concluding statement**

In this third-grade piece, the writer supports a point of view with reasons. The topic is introduced with a question (“*Do you think school should be year round?*”) and a clearly stated opinion (“*I do not think school should be year round.*”). Reasons for the opinion are loosely organized; they could be arranged in any order within the piece. Although the reasoning is “listy”, some points are explained and elaborated upon (“*If a student wanted to go to a sleepaway camp they would not be able to do it. At camp you learn how to do things on your own.*”). The student is beginning to use linking words and phrases to connect opinion and reason (“*If school was year round older siblings would not have time to teach younger siblings how to swing or climb trees.*”), but the argument would be more effective if linking words and phrases were used more frequently. A concluding statement (“*I do not think school needs to be year round!*”) clearly restates the focus of the piece.

**File Name: O3R School Year Time**

**Argument/Opinion  
Grade 3**

**Revised and Edited for Student Use**

### School Year Time

I do not think school should be year round. Do you think school should be year round?

Without summer vacation, students would not be able to go on family vacations. If a student wanted to go to a sleep away camp, they would not be able to do it. At camp you learn how to do things on your own. If school was year round, older siblings would not have time to teach younger siblings how to swing or climb trees. Teachers would also not have time for vacation. Even if you are not at school, you can still learn things. Teachers can also learn things outside of school.

Kids need to get their energy out. They can get it out by doing big races. In summer it is very hot indoors and children would be thinking about outside, and not school. Children usually like warm or hot weather.

I know that towards the end of the year, I look forward to summer vacation and I think other children do too! If a student wants to learn more things in the summer, they can take classes about that subject. I do not think school needs to be year round!

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**Argument/Opinion**

**Grade 3**

**Range of Writing**

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If a student wants to learn more things in the summer they can take classes about that subject. I do not think school needs to be year round!

**File Name: O3R Chuke Cheese's**

**Argument/Opinion**

**Grade 3**

**Range of Writing**

### Chuke Cheese's

Once a year my family goes to Chuke Cheese's. It's a popular place. Chuke Cheese's is a nice place to go because of the tasty food and the awesome arcade.

Chuke Cheese's food is excellent! Thier peporoini pizza is mouth watering. The salads are great with diced tomatoes. The selections of veggies are endless and very good. The macoroni has a special ingredient in it. Well it seems it. The food is scrumpshish at Chuke Cheese's.

While your waiting for your food, the arcade makes time fly. You have to by coins which each arcade game is only 1 coin. And if you do good you get lots of tickets to buy fun stuff. So it's not wasting your money parents! The motor games such as: The: Snowmobile, four wheeler, motor cycle, car and many more are great. The arcade is great while waiting for your food.

Chuke Cheese's is bad for you but is great. I wish I could go there every day! Oh well it's fun going to Chuke Cheese's because of the extraordinary food and spectacular arcade. I can't wait to win some more prizes next year at Chuke Cheese's.

**Introduces the topic**

**States an opinion**

**Provides reasons and details that support the opinion**

**Creates an organizational structure that lists reasons**

**Uses linking words and phrases to connect opinion and reasons, and reasons to details**

**Provides a concluding section**

This third-grade opinion piece, based on personal experience, states an opinion (“*Chuke Cheese's is a nice place to go*”) and supports that opinion with reasons (“*because of the tasty food and the awesome arcade*”) and details (“*Thier peporoini pizza is mouth watering.*”). The writer has created an organizational structure—one paragraph for each reason—that explains each reason with supporting details (“*The selections of veggies are endless*”, “*the arcade makes time fly*”). Linking words and phrases (“*and*”, “*so*”, “*but*”, “*because*”) connect opinion to reasons and reasons to details. Although not required by the Standard, the writer even acknowledges a possible counterclaim (“*Chuke Cheese's is bad for you*”). The piece concludes by clearly restating opinion and reasons.

**File Name: O3R Chuke Cheese's**

**Argument/Opinion**

**Grade 3**

**Revised and Edited for Student Use**

Chuck E. Cheese's

Once a year, my family goes to Chuck E. Cheese's. It's a popular place. Chuck E. Cheese's is a nice place to go because of the tasty food and the awesome arcade.

Chuck E. Cheese's food is excellent! Their pepperoni pizza is mouthwatering. The salads are great, with diced tomatoes. The selection of veggies is endless and very good. The macaroni has a special ingredient in it. Well, it seems to. The food is scrumptious at Chuck E. Cheese's.

While you're waiting for your food, the arcade makes time fly. You have to buy coins, and each arcade game is only 1 coin. And if you do well, you get lots of tickets to buy fun stuff. So it's not wasting your money, parents! The motor games, such as the snowmobile, four-wheeler, motorcycle, car, and many more, are great. The arcade is great while waiting for your food.

Chuck E. Cheese's is bad for you but is great. I wish I could go there every day! Oh well. It's fun going to Chuck E. Cheese's because of

the extraordinary food and spectacular arcade. I can't wait to win some more prizes next year at Chuck E. Cheese's.



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**Grade 3**

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While you're waiting for your food the arcade makes time fly. You have to use coins which each arcade game is only 1 coin. And if you do good you get lots of tickets to buy fun stuff. So it's not wasting your money parents! The motor games such as: The Snowmobile, four wheeler, motor cycle, car and many more are great. The arcade is great while waiting for your food.

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