

Course: Science	Grade Level: 7
Type: Argumentative	Structure: Analysis
Teaching Task 2: Should animals be kept in zoos? After reading informational texts, write an essay that addresses the question and support your position with evidence from the text(s). L2 Be sure to acknowledge competing views.	
Performance Level: Approaches Expectations	

Zoos and Animal Welfare

Are animals being restrained in zoos? Many people are arguing about their thoughts and feelings toward this topic. Just think about it. If you were stuck living in harsh conditions would you like it? Animals should not be kept in zoos due to harsh living conditions, claiming to teach others about animals, and a lot of stress. There are many other significant reasons on why animals should not be kept in zoos.

You may say that zoos protect animals but the harsh conditions in zoos are causing more harm than you think. Some animals are neglected and treated with horrible conditions. These animals are vomiting, pacing, and over-grooming (Van Tuyl, 13). They are even hurting themselves by biting, scratching, and banging their heads on their cages. Animals also experience birth defects and inter-breeding when confined to such small spaces. Self-mutilation is caused by the stress brought to animals confined in their cages. This is what most animals experience during their life in zoos.

Zoos claim that they teach people about exotic and endangered animals, but are they really? When animals are in zoos they are not in their natural habitat. Also, studies show that 95% of animals in zoos are not even endangered! Therefore, people who want to learn about animals are getting inaccurate information. Researchers should go into nature to find animals in their natural habitat. Zoos are lying to their customers in this situation.

Remember all the stress in zoos? Well, scientists have shown that these animals are turning on people. Animals are injuring or even killing visitors and zookeepers (Van Tuyl, 20). The boredom and stress is doing very harmful things to not only themselves, but other people too. Is that safe for anyone?

As you can see, there are many different viewpoints on whether animals should be kept in zoos or not. No animals deserve all of the pain and suffering that they would experience in a zoo. Zoos are cruel, stressful, boring, and depressing to all animals. Just imagine if you were in that situation. Just think about the animals and about zoos in the future.

Bibliography

Van, Tuyl Christine. *Zoos and Animal Welfare*. Detroit: Greenhaven, 2008.

“Zoos: Debatabase – Debate Topics and Debate Motions.” IDEA: *International Debate Education Association – Debate Resources & Debate Tools*. Web. 28 Mar. 2011.

http://www.idebate.org/debatabase/topic_details.php?topicID=1.

Annotation		
Focus	2.5	The writer addresses aspects of the prompt by arguing that animals should not be kept in zoos, but the writer needs to acknowledge the counter-claim more thoroughly.
Reading/Research	2	It is evident that the writer has researched the topic: <i>Some animals are neglected and treated with horrible conditions. These animals are vomiting, pacing, and over-grooming (Van Tuyl, 13).</i> However, the student makes generalizations that are not supported from the research: <i>Self mutilation is caused by the stress brought to animals confined in their cages. This is what most animals experience during their life in the zoo.</i> The writer attempts to acknowledge the counter-claim, but not with research: <i>You may say that zoos protect animals but the harsh conditions in zoos are causing more harm than you think.</i>
Controlling Idea	2	The writer establishes a thesis statement: <i>Animals should not be kept in zoos due to harsh living conditions, claiming to teach others about animals, and a lot of stress.</i> The second and third points in the thesis are unclear.
Development	2	The student gives three arguments to support the claim: horrible conditions, lack of teaching, and danger to people due to stress; however, further details and explanation are needed to support claims. For example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Zoos are lying to their customers in this situation.</i> The writer did not credibly acknowledge the other viewpoint.
Organization	2.5	The writer follows a logical structure of an introduction with thesis, three body paragraphs with supporting arguments, and a conclusion paragraph to summarize ideas. The writer incorporates similar ideas into paragraphs, but needs further explanation of evidence to present information satisfactorily. Basic transitions are used to help guide the reader, e.g., “ <i>also,</i> ” “ <i>therefore,</i> ” “ <i>as you can see.</i> ”
Conventions	2	The writer demonstrates a satisfactory command of Standard English. There are some errors that may affect the readability of the essay, e.g., “ <i>weather,</i> ” “ <i>then.</i> ” When used, the citations and bibliography are appropriately formatted.
Content Understanding	2	The writer demonstrates an adequate understanding of content through specific examples: <i>Animals also experience birth defects and inter-breeding when confined to such small spaces.</i> Because the writer did not acknowledge competing viewpoints, stronger statements, such as “ <i>Studies show that 95% of animals in zoos are not even endangered!</i> ”, seem less credible. The writer makes an inconsistent and confusing point in body paragraph 2: “ <i>Zoos claim to teach people about exotic and endangered animals, but are they really?...Researchers should go into nature to find animals in their natural habitat.</i> ”

This writer would benefit from feedback, discussion, and/or instruction in the following areas:

- Development and expansion of examples and ideas: *Zoos are lying to their customers in this situation.*
- Parenthetical citations: *Also, studies show that 95% of animals are not even endangered!*
- Appropriate use of second person “you.”: *If you were stuck living in harsh conditions would you like it?*
- Appropriate comma usage: *You may say that zoos protect animals but the harsh conditions in zoos are causing more harm than you think.*