

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: Meets Expectations	

Zoos and Animal Welfare

What would happen if zoos were shut down? Would kids learn or love animals as much as they do now? Would scientists have as much information about how to prevent animal extinctions? Zoos can mistreat animals, but most zoo keepers spend a lot of money and effort to keep animals feeling safe. Animals are rarely mistreated in zoos, and zoos, therefore, should not be shut down.

Some zoos do not provide animals the proper habitat. However, many zoos create enclosures that are large enough and resemble their habitat in the wild. They give them a shelter very close to their habitat in the wild, and keep the animals in groups when appropriate. Zoo keepers also provide the animals with food and security. Although, some zoo employees keep animals in cages with metal bars and concrete floors. Zoos sometimes also clip a bird's wings because the birds would cause too much chaos in the birds' small cages if they could fly. This rarely happens. Most zoos have vets to help sick or injured animals, give them the right amount of nutrients, and devote much time to the animals. Animals are treated very well while in a zoos.

Zoo keepers also try to save endangered animals. They have saved so many species such as the black-footed ferret. In 2006, at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, 24 kits were born. This happened as a result of a successful breeding program (Van Tuyl 73). People say that when an animal is bred through the zoo, it will not be able to survive in the wild because it will always rely on the zoo keepers to do everything for it (Van Tuyl 75). That can be true, however, when a zoo decides to bring animal back into the wild, the keepers will train them first to survive. For example, the Black-Footed Ferrets were prepared for release into the wild by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Black-Footed Ferret Conservation Center (Van Tuyl 73). Zoos are often called protectors of the wild because many animal species depend on zoos to keep them alive.

What is a better educational place than the zoo? Children can see so many animals that they do not see in their backyard. They can see animals from all over the world and see how they live everyday. There are many places at Central Park Zoo in New York City for kids to learn about the animals, such as the Wildlife Theater. These organizations give audiences better understandings of the importance of the conservation of rainforests. The Wildlife Conservation Society states that students gain "a new awareness about the direct relationship between small, personal acts of conservation and the survival of the rainforest" (Van Tuyl 62). However, students might not see exactly how animals naturally behave because their environment is not the same as it is in the wild. But, overall, zoos are great educational places.

Zoos are great places for animals. Without zoos, many animals will become extinct, and children and scientists would not know as much as they do about animals' lives. Zoos have saved so many species and reintroduced them into the wild. Zoos keep animals safe and should keep running forever. Life would not be the same for both humans and animals if zoos were abolished.

Bibliography

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

"Zoos: Debatabase – Debate Topics and Debate Motions." IDEA: *International Debate Education Association – Debate Resources & Debate Tools*. Web. 23 Mar. 2011.

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

Annotation

Focus	3	The writer addresses the prompt by arguing that zoos should not be shut down. The writer makes claims to support the argument and acknowledges competing viewpoints.
Reading/Research	3	Evidence to support rationale presented in the essay is satisfactory, and the writer shows evidence of content-area knowledge with discussion of animals' basic needs, endangered species, and opportunity for education and scientific study in zoos: <i>The Wildlife Conservation Society states that students gain "a new awareness about the direct relationship between small, personal acts of conservation and the survival of rainforest" (Van Tuyl 62).</i>
Controlling Idea	3	<p>The writer presents a clear stance to establish the claim: <i>Animals are rarely mistreated in zoos, and therefore, should not be shut down.</i> The writer's arguments and counter-arguments support the claim through acknowledgement and explanation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Some zoos do not provide animals the proper habitat. However, many zoos create enclosures that are large enough and resemble their habitat in the world.</i> • <i>People say that when an animal is bred through the zoo, it will not be able to survive in the wild because it will always rely on the zookeepers to do everything for it (Van Tuyl 73). That can be true, however, when a zoo decides to bring an animal back into the wild, the keepers will train them first to survive. For example, the Black-Footed Ferrets..."</i> • <i>Zookeepers provide the animals with food and security. Although, some zoo employees keep animals in cages with metal bars and concrete floors.</i> <p>The third example of argument and counter-argument would be stronger if the writer identified a specific example of food and security that zookeepers can provide. Overall, the writer uses counter-arguments to support to the claim.</p>
Development	3	<p>The writer provides sufficient explanations as to why zoos should remain open through three main arguments. Each of these explanations is supported with details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Some zoos do not provide animals the proper habitat. However, many zoos create enclosures that are large enough and resemble their habitat in the wild.</i> • <i>Zookeepers also try and save endangered animals.</i> • <i>What is a better educational place than the zoo?</i>
Organization	3.5	The essay follows a logical structure, using an introduction to introduce the topic and present the thesis, body paragraphs to present new arguments in favor of zoos that support the thesis, and a concluding paragraph to summarize the main arguments. The writer's use of basic transitions helps to guide the reader, e.g., "however," "overall," "for example."
Conventions	3	The writer demonstrates a solid command of Standard English. There are a few errors that do not affect the readability of the essay. The writer uses appropriate format for citations and bibliography. The tone of the essay is persuasive.
Content Understanding	3	The writer demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of content shown through a claim, supporting arguments, counter-claims, and research: <i>For example, the Black-Footed Ferrets were prepared for release into the wild by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)...Zoos are often called protectors of the wild because many animal species depend on zoos to keep them alive.</i>

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

- Development and expansion of examples and ideas: *However, students might not see exactly how animals naturally behave because their environment is not the same as it is in the wild.*
- Use of specific examples and source citations to lend credibility and strengthen the argument/counter-argument: *Zoos sometimes also clip a bird's wings because the birds would cause too much chaos in the birds' small cages if they could fly. This rarely happens.*