

SBAC Fourth Grade Opinion Performance Task

Task Overview and Teacher Directions:

Title: Are Zoos For You?

Part 1

Before writing an essay for an animal club, students will be introduced to the topic through reading two sources and watching a video. Two sources describe the pros and cons of zoos. The last source is a video interview with Jane Goodall. Students will take notes on what they read and watch to help them organize the information. Students should also have access to all of the sources throughout the performance task. After reading and watching the video, students will then respond individually to selected-response and constructed-response questions that address the research skills of analyzing information. Students are not allowed to change their answers once Part 1 is finished.

Part 2

Finally, students will work individually to compose an essay that is several paragraphs long that states your opinion on whether zoos are good for animals and support your belief with information from the sources. Students may also refer to their notes, answers to their questions, or sources as needed. They cannot change their answers to the three reading questions they answered in Part 1. Drafting and revising will be involved.

Scorable Products: Student responses to the selected-response and constructed-response questions in part 1 and the essay in part 2 will be scored.

Teacher preparation/Resource requirements: The teacher should ensure that sufficient blank paper and writing utensils are available for student note taking. Teacher should conduct standard preparation, registration, etc., for computer-based testing. The testing software will include access to spell check but not to grammar check.

Estimated Time: 90-105 Minutes

Scoring Information

1. The following question has two parts. First answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

Which source **best** describes the reasons zoos are not fit for animals?

- A. Source 1
- B. Source 2
- C. Source 3

Part B

Which sentence from the sources supports your answer in Part A?

- A. **Even though zoos in the United States, are supposed to follow the laws and requirements of the Animal Welfare Act, some zoos still are not meeting standard.**
- B. And although zoo animals aren't treated quite like guests at a four-star hotel, their care has improved tremendously.
- C. Animals are showing less neurotic behavior as zoos begin to create environments that are closer to animal's natural habitat.

2. Which topic can be found in all three sources?

- D. California Condors
- E. Endangered Animals
- F. Conservation efforts

3. The following question has two parts. First answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A:

Which source **best** describes the reasons zoos are helpful for animals?

A. Source 1

B. **Source 2**

C. Source 3

Part B

Which sentence from the sources supports your answer in Part A?

A. Even in the best conditions it's very difficult to provide for the needs of animals like elephants.

B. Aside from taking care of caged animals, many zoos also add to the care of species in the wild.

C. Zoos play a role in education by giving people some idea of how animals behave in their natural habitats.

Opinion Writing – Scoring Rubric

Third, Fourth and Fifth Grade

COS – Content, Organization and Style

Points	Description
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas are clear and focused on the prompt (opinion is clearly stated and strongly maintained) • Ample details support ideas (convincing evidence for the writer’s opinion that includes effective use of sources, facts and details) • Organized (conveys a sense of wholeness: states opinion, logical progression of ideas from beginning to end, effective conclusion for audience and purpose) • Transition words and phrases clearly connect ideas • Sentence length and structure is varied • Precise vocabulary is used (use of academic and domain-specific vocabulary is clearly appropriate for audience and purpose) • Allows a reader to sense the person behind the words
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas are clear and focused on the prompt (opinion is clearly stated and strongly maintained) • Adequate details support ideas (some evidence for the writer’s opinion that includes use of sources, facts and details) • Organized (conveys a sense of wholeness, but some lapses occur) • Transition words and phrases adequately connect ideas • Sentence length and structure is somewhat varied • General or common vocabulary (use of academic and domain-specific vocabulary is generally appropriate for audience and purpose) • Allows a reader some sense of the person behind the words
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas may be loosely related (inconsistent focus) • Attempts to support with details (weak evidence for the writer’s opinion that includes partial or uneven use of sources, facts or details) • Attempts to organize with little sense of wholeness (gaps in wholeness) • Weak transitions which attempt to connect ideas • Variety of sentence length and structure is limited • Limited vocabulary (nouns, adjectives, adverbs, verbs) • Allows a reader little sense of the person behind the words
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas are loosely related • Little or no supporting details (weak evidence for the writer’s opinion) • Little evidence of organization • Poor or no use of transitions • Little or no variety of sentence length and structure • Limited vocabulary • Allows a reader little or no sense of the person behind the words
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response is “I don’t know,” a question mark, one word, only the title of the prompt or the prompt is recopied

Opinion Writing – Scoring Rubric

Third, Fourth and Fifth Grade

CON – Conventions

Points	Description
2 consistently correct, but not perfect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correctly uses capitals and punctuation• Uses correct subject-verb agreement• High frequency and grade level words spelled correctly• Uses complete sentences except where phrases are purposely used for effect
1 generally follows the rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Generally uses capitals and punctuation correctly• Generally uses correct subject-verb agreement• Usually spells high frequency and grade level words correctly• Generally uses complete sentences except where phrases are purposely used for effect
0 rarely follows the rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rarely uses capitals and punctuation correctly• Rarely uses correct subject-verb agreement• Rarely spells high frequency and grade level words correctly• Rarely uses complete sentences