

Service Animals Lend a Hand

5th Grade Opinion Performance Task

Task:

People with disabilities often face challenges as they strive to perform the tasks of daily living. With the help of a service animal that is trained to perform specific tasks, disabled people can enjoy more independence and participate more fully in everyday activities in their home, school, workplace, and community.

For this task, you will be writing an opinion article related to the topic of service animals. Before you write your article, you will review three sources (an audio presentation with photos and two articles) that provide information about different types of service animals and a new law regarding service animals.

After you have reviewed these sources, you will answer some questions about them. Briefly scan the sources and the three questions that follow. Then, go back and view or read the sources carefully to gain the information you will need to answer the questions and write an article.

In Part 2, you will write an opinion article on a topic related to the sources.

Directions for beginning:

You will now examine several sources. You can re-examine any of the sources as often as you like.

Research Questions:

After examining the research sources, using the remaining time in Part 1 to answer three questions about them. Your answers to these questions will be scored. Also, your answers will help you think about the research sources you have viewed and read, which should help you write your opinion article.



Practice Test, May 2013

Source # 1

Listen to this presentation about monkeys being trained to help people with disabilities. (see 5th Grade ELA Performance Task on the Smarter Balanced Practice Test for audio).



Source # 2

Here is an article about service animals from *Click Magazine's* November/December 2002 issue.

Animals Helping People

Seeing eye dogs are trained to be the eyes for people who cannot see. All over the world, seeing-eye dogs are hard at work—guiding, protecting, and loving their blind masters.

A monkey who helps you drink out of a straw? A dog who opens the refrigerator door when you want a snack? A pony gentle enough to ride even if you cannot see? When people need extra care, special animals are there to help!

Horseback riding is good exercise. It also helps people feel happy and confident. Even riders who cannot see, or who have trouble moving their muscles, can have fun on a quiet, gentle, well-trained horse.

Hearing dogs help people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. These smart, friendly, energetic dogs are specially trained to let their owners know when the doorbell rings, or the smoke alarm goes off, or the baby wakes up from a nap.



This boy needs both his hands and all his energy just to walk. Luckily, his assistance dog is there to carry his backpack. Assistance dogs are good helpers—and good friends!



It's hard to feel independent when you can't move your arms and legs. Assistance animals like this capuchin monkey are smart and nimble enough to help in lots of ways—they can turn the lights on and off, play a CD, or get their owners a cool drink!



This boy is part of a special program to help children with serious physical and learning difficulties. Swimming with dolphins helps the children relax—and who wouldn't love being around such wild and beautiful creatures!



When you're in a wheelchair, even the simplest activity becomes a challenge. Calm, strong, friendly assistance dogs fetch and carry and do other simple tasks to give their owners a sense of freedom and safety.

Source # 3

This article about a new law about service animals is based on information in the following source: http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm (Americans with Disabilities)

Service Animal Laws

By Clare Mishica

A man has a large snake draped over his shoulders. He wants to enter a café to have lunch and says the snake is a service animal that comforts him. In the past, the law would have required the café to allow the man to bring his snake inside since people were allowed to choose any service animal as their partner. This included pigs, birds, cats, and lizards! However, the law changed in 2011. The new law permits the use of dogs only as service animals in public places.

This law change was necessary for several reasons. First, the new law protects people from diseases. Different animals carry certain diseases, and when the animals go into public places, they might pass the illness to the crowd. In addition, some animals have not learned how to keep an area clean. For instance, birds could leave droppings behind on a store floor. This would cause an unhealthy setting for others.

The new law also keeps people safe from danger. For example, monkeys can behave in ways that are hard to predict. They can become angry in a flash. Because of this, a monkey brought onto a bus could suddenly hurt a person sitting nearby. On the other

hand, dogs are tame animals that have been pets for hundreds of years. People can better trust their actions.

People who run businesses are pleased with the law change, too. They can easily help people who have service dogs. These trained animals sit quietly by café tables. They do not bark during shows. They listen to commands. Under the old law, places like hotels were supposed to handle service animals like horses or goats! Such a task could create problems. For example, some animals are large or noisy. Others might cause damage or have special needs. A business must also consider the well-being of all its guests.

Some people prefer to use service animals other than dogs, and this is still possible. The new law limits only the kind of service animals permitted in public places. In private, people are welcome to choose other species. In fact, one group works to train capuchin monkeys to help people with severe disabilities do tasks in their home. These monkeys have similar hand and finger control as humans, so they can perform more tasks than other animals.

Would you like to learn more about the new laws for service animals? You can visit the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) website. It gives details and reasons for the law changes.

1. Why might people choose to use service monkeys instead of other service animals? Provide specific reasons from at least two sources in your answer. Be sure to name each source.
2. Which of the sources provides the best support for the new law? What are three strong reasons presented by that source?
3. Which of the three sources would be the most useful in arguing against the new law? Explain, why, and support your answer with at least two details from that source.

Student Directions for Part 2

You will now look at your sources, take notes and plan, draft, revise and edit your article. You may use your notes and go back to the sources, Now read your assignment and the information about how your opinion article will be scored; then begin your work.

Your assignment:

The legislature has passed a new law that allows only service dogs to go with their owners into public places. You are working on the school newsletter, and you have been asked to write a multi-paragraph article giving your opinion on the new law. In your article, you will take a side as to whether you think allowing only service dogs in public places is a good law or whether other service animals should also be permitted. Your article will be read by the teachers and students at your school. In your article, clearly state your opinion and support your opinion with reasons that are thoroughly developed using information from what you have read and viewed.

REMEMBER: A well-written opinion article:

- Has a clear main idea
- Is well-organized and stays on the topic
- Has an introduction and conclusion
- Uses transitions
- Uses details from the sources to support your main idea
- Develops ideas clearly
- Uses clear language
- Follows rules of writing (spelling, punctuation, and grammar)

Now begin your work on your opinion article. Manage your time carefully so that you can:

1. plan your article.
2. write your article.
3. revise and edit the final draft of your article.

For Part 2, you are being asked to write an article that is several paragraphs long.

Opinion Performance Task Writing Rubric (Grades 3-5)

Score	Purpose/Organization	Evidence/Elaboration	Conventions	
4	<p>The response has a clear and effective organizational structure, creating a sense of unity and completeness. The response is fully sustained and consistently and purposefully focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> opinion is introduced, clearly communicated, and the focus is strongly maintained for the purpose, audience, and task consistent use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas effective introduction and conclusion logical progression of ideas from beginning to end; strong connections between and among ideas with some syntactic variety 	<p>The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the opinion and supporting idea(s) that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details. The response clearly and effectively expresses ideas, using precise language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> comprehensive evidence from sources is integrated; references are relevant and specific effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques* vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose effective, appropriate style enhances content 	2	<p>The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> adequate use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling
3	<p>The response has an evident organizational structure and a sense of completeness, though there may be minor flaws and some ideas may be loosely connected. The response is adequately sustained and generally focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> opinion is clear, and the focus is mostly maintained for the purpose, audience, and task adequate use of transitional strategies with some variety to clarify relationships between and among ideas adequate introduction and conclusion adequate progression of ideas from beginning to end; adequate connections between and among ideas 	<p>The response provides adequate support/evidence for the opinion and supporting idea(s) that includes the use of sources, facts, and details. The response adequately expresses ideas, employing a mix of precise with more general language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> adequate evidence from sources is integrated; some references may be general adequate use of some elaborative techniques vocabulary is generally appropriate for the audience and purpose generally appropriate style is evident 	1	<p>The response demonstrates a partial command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> limited use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling
2	<p>The response has an inconsistent organizational structure, and flaws are evident. The response is somewhat sustained and may have a minor drift in focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> opinion may be somewhat unclear, or the focus may be insufficiently sustained for the purpose, audience, and task inconsistent use of transitional strategies and/or little variety introduction or conclusion, if present, may be weak uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end; and/or formulaic; inconsistent or unclear connections between and among ideas 	<p>The response provides uneven, cursory support/evidence for the opinion and supporting idea(s) that includes partial or uneven use of sources, facts, and details. The response expresses ideas unevenly, using simplistic language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> some evidence from sources may be weakly integrated, imprecise, or repetitive; references may be vague weak or uneven use of elaborative techniques; development may consist primarily of source summary vocabulary use is uneven or somewhat ineffective for the audience and purpose inconsistent or weak attempt to create appropriate style 	0	<p>The response demonstrates little or no command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> infrequent use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling
1	<p>The response has little or no discernible organizational structure. The response may be related to the opinion but may provide little or no focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> opinion may be confusing or ambiguous; response may be too brief or the focus may drift from the purpose, audience, or task few or no transitional strategies are evident introduction and/or conclusion may be missing frequent extraneous ideas may be evident; ideas may be randomly ordered or have an unclear progression 	<p>The response provides minimal support/evidence for the opinion and supporting idea(s) that includes little or no use of sources, facts, and details. The response's expression of ideas is vague, lacks clarity, or is confusing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> evidence from the source material is minimal or irrelevant; references may be absent or incorrectly used minimal, if any, use of elaborative techniques vocabulary is limited or ineffective for the audience and purpose little or no evidence of appropriate style 	NS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unintelligible In a language other than English Off-topic Copied text (Off-purpose responses will still receive a score in Conventions.)
NS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unintelligible In a language other than English Off-topic Copied text Off-purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unintelligible In a language other than English Off-topic Copied text Off-purpose 		

*Elaborative techniques may include the use of personal experiences that support the opinion.