

Dogs

This is a well-organized, solid piece of writing. The introduction introduces the main ideas that are each broad enough to cover a number of interesting details, each of which is distinct from the others. The author uses many specific details and examples, an amazing fact, and an anecdote – all tools for showing rather than telling. There is also a bit of linking a fact to the idea of elaborating on that by explaining why that fact is important to the main idea. (Ex. Lonely people can get a dog – they’d have a cuddly friend, they go through an entrance blocked by fire to lead people out.) There’s also good word choice throughout this piece.

What worked?

- strong organizational strategy
- effective combination of broad yet distinct main ideas
- numerous specific examples along with why these facts are important to the main ideas
- good word choice
- use of a hypothetical anecdote to bring the reader in touch, hypothetically, with the topic
- creatively restates main ideas in the conclusion

Suggestions:

- **Introduction** – lead would be strengthened with a descriptive segment, anecdote, or other specific information – *Section 5 Informational & Opinion Writing Guide*
- Main idea 1 and 2 – try **varying the sentence structure** – both main idea sentences begin with “Dogs are....”- *Section 2 Informational & Opinion Writing Guide*
- This author could more consistently tie in the **detail generating questions** – “**What does it look like?**” and “**Why is it important?**” using transitional words such as, “so that...”*therefore...as a result...consequently...for that reason...* - *Section 3 Informational & Opinion Writing Guide*
- This author could come up with a more attention-grabbing title, perhaps through the use of **word referents**. - *Section 2 Informational & Opinion Writing Guide*



Dogs



I think dogs are the best friends a kid could ever have! Dogs make great pets because they are good companions and they are helpful. However, they are a big responsibility to take care of.

Dogs are great companions. Many are loyal, and will not disobey their masters. For example, my dog, Casey, always listens to my stepfather. Puppies are energetic and very playful. They love kids, and they like to play with them. Dogs like to play games such as fetch or tug-of-war. Whenever people are lonely, they could get a dog. That way, they will have a cuddly friend to hang around with. Many small dogs like to curl up in their owner's lap and fall asleep. Dogs are really nice companions.

Dogs are very helpful. They are used in many jobs because of their great sense of smell and hearing. Fire dogs help in fires. They save people by going through an entrance that is blocked by fire and leading the person out. Sled dogs, such as Samoyeds, race other sleds or help their owner get to a place he or she wants to go to. You might think a musher says "mush" when they want to make the dogs run, but they really say, "Hike!" Another job is that dogs can help blind people get to places without another person. They are attached to a special leash, and if the person swims, they have to swim, also. That way the person doesn't swim too far. Visiting dogs also have important jobs. They visit hospitals to make sick people happy. Once my teacher read our class the book titled



Great organization!

Dogs

How about a more compelling title?



intro.

Lead? An opinion-great voice - but it tells rather than shows!

I think dogs are the best friends a kid could ever have!
Dogs make great pets because they are ¹ good companions and they are ² helpful. However, they are a big ³ responsibility to take care of. *main ideas 1, 2, 3*

main idea
companion

Dogs are great companions. Many are loyal, and will not disobey their masters. For example, my dog, Casey, ^{great! anecdote-specific ex.} always listens to my stepfather. Puppies are energetic and very playful. They love kids, and they like to play with them. Dogs like to play games such as fetch or tug-of-war. Whenever people are lonely, they could get a dog. That way, they will have a cuddly friend to hang around with. ^{Yes! Why it's important!}

Vary sentence structure

Many small dogs like to curl up in their owner's lap and fall asleep. *(Dogs are really nice companions) redundant*

main idea
helpful

Dogs are very helpful. They are used in many jobs because of their great sense of smell and hearing. Fire dogs help in fires. They save people by going through an entrance that is blocked by fire and leading the person out. Sled dogs, such as Samoyeds, race other sleds or help their owner get to a place he or she wants to go to. You might think a musher says "mush" when they want to make the dogs run, but they really say, "Hike!" ^{amazing fact!} Another job is that dogs can help blind people get to places without another person. They are attached to a special leash, and if the person swims, they have to swim, also. That way the person doesn't swim too far. Visiting dogs also have important jobs. They visit hospitals to make sick people happy. Once my teacher read our class the book titled

Yes! What does it look like, why is it important!

Excellent specific examples!
solid information!

☺ anecdote!

“Rosie.” It was a true story about a visiting dog. Dogs have many jobs.

Responsibility is needed to take care of a dog. It is important to walk them, or they won't get any exercise. They also need to be given food and water every day. Yearly shots are required, or they can get very sick. Many dogs love to be groomed. I think it is because the brush feels good on their fur when someone combs them. Most important of all, they must be loved, or they would be very lonely. People need to be responsible to take care of a dog.

If you like a pet that is a great companion, helpful, but a big responsibility to take care of, then a dog is for you.
Dogs are the best pets ever.

main idea - responsibility

Good word choice - important... need... required...

hypothetical anecdote

broad general restatement of topic sentence

Yes! Main ideas are reiterated.