

Name: _____

Persuasive Writing

Zoo Animals

Do you agree or disagree with the statement below?

It is inhumane to keep wild animals in a zoo.

State your opinion and use details to support your point of view.



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Draw a picture to supplement your persuasive essay.

TEACHER NOTES

Zoo Animals

Recommendations for Lesson:

Before presenting this persuasive writing prompt to students, you may choose to have a class discussion to present both sides of the issue.

Arguments in favor of animals being kept in zoos might include:

- Zoos breed animals. This allows endangered animals to be brought back from near extinction.
- People can learn about wild animals from all over the world by visiting zoos.
- Zookeepers tend to treat animals well by providing plenty of food, water, veterinary services, and a safe habitat.
- Animals in zoos are often safer than in the wild because they are protected from predators and other natural dangers.

Arguments against animals being kept in zoos might include:

- Animals in zoos do not have as much space as they would in the wild.
- Animals often do not get to interact with large family groups, or in large groups of the same species (large herds, flocks, etc.). They can not migrate or find mates, as they would in the wild.
- Zoo animals usually do not get to hunt in a natural way.

When writing their persuasive essays, students should be encouraged to include a topic sentence (or topic paragraph) stating their opinion, followed by persuasive details to support their point of view. Writers can also acknowledge the opinions of those who might have a different view, and follow up with an argument to make their case.