

Sample 1: Topic — Should Pets Be Allowed at School?

Before Revision

Claim: Pets are good for schools.

Evidence: Pets make people happy.

Reasoning: Pets are nice and fun to have.

Paragraph:

Pets are good for schools. Pets make people happy. Pets are nice and fun to have. That is why schools should have pets.

Annotations (Before)

Some ideas to help you!

1. Take a look at your claim, do you think you could find an even better word than “good”?
2. I like your evidence. I wonder if you might also be able to add more specific examples. You could even ask a friend about how it feels to have a pet!
3. I notice your paragraph says “pets” quite a bit. How could you change it up?
4. Are there ways you could make your writing longer and more detailed?
 - a. Maybe tell me how pets make people happy...or share about a nice pet who would be great for school.

After Revision

Claim: Pets should be allowed at school because they cut down on students’ stress.

Evidence: Studies show that being with pets can lower stress hormones and give people feelings of happiness.

Reasoning: When students feel less stressed and happier, they can focus better on their schoolwork and improve their learning.

Revised Paragraph:

Pets should be allowed at school because they help cut down on students’ stress. Studies show that being with pets can lower stress hormones and increase feelings of happiness. When students feel less stressed and happier, they can focus better on their schoolwork and improve their learning. Allowing pets would create a friendlier and more supportive environment for everyone.

Annotations (After)

- Your claim is really strong now!
- I love how you included the information about stress hormones and feelings of happiness!
- You did a good job of not repeating yourself, too!
- Maybe take time to work with Josie to learn more about giving credit. It looks like you did some research!

Sample 2: Topic — Why Recycling Is Important

Before Revision

Claim: Recycling is important.

Evidence: Recycling helps the environment.

Reasoning: The environment is important.

Paragraph:

Recycling is important. Recycling helps the environment. The environment is important. People should recycle more.

Annotations (Before)

- You did a good job picking just one important topic. What if you made it even more specific? Are there more details you could add to the claim?
- Your evidence is there, way to go!
- I think your paragraph could be longer with some details of how recycling is helpful to the world. What could you include?
- Remember the article you read in Science about recycling? Take some time to review your highlights and see if there are more details you can include in your writing.

After Revision

Claim: Recycling is important because it reduces waste in landfills and conserves natural resources.

Evidence: According to the EPA, recycling saves millions of tons of waste from landfills each year and reduces the need to harvest new raw materials.

Reasoning: By reducing landfill waste and conserving resources, recycling helps protect ecosystems and decreases pollution, making it easier to maintain a healthy environment.

Revised Paragraph:

Recycling is important because it reduces waste in landfills and conserves natural resources. According to the EPA, “recycling saves millions of tons of waste from landfills each year” (EPA.gov) and reduces the need to go get new raw materials. By keeping trash out of the landfill and conserving resources, we can keep raw materials from being thrown away. Recycling helps protect ecosystems and keeps pollution down, making it easier to have a healthy environment. Therefore, everyone should recycle to help keep our planet clean and safe.

Annotations (After)

- Wow! You did very well on your beginning draft, but the end results are AMAZING!
- I notice you included a source! I can tell you were paying attention to the mini-lesson!
- I also see that you used such a good transition word “therefore,” to make the paragraph flow and show connections.
- One suggestion is to be sure all the writing is in your own words. Are there spots in this that need to be reworded? If so, make small changes to keep it original.
- So proud of your work!