

# Opinion Example Essays

## Grades 3-4

*Essay scores are produced for the following grade ranges: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, and 11-12. Thus a third grade essay is compared to models for both third and fourth grades.*

**Prompt for Essays 1-4:** *What is your dream vacation? Write a letter to your parents in which you explain why your family should take this vacation. Clearly support your opinion with reasons.*

### Opinion Essay 1: My Dream Vacation

mom and dad,  
Me and Aiden want to go to disney world! Pleas let us go. We could ride rides and see mickey mouse and go on the thunder mouten ride and the dinasor and see the animals and the movees. It woud be so good to go and we would have fun. Pleas let us go to disney world.  
Love, Caroline

*Annotation: This essay needs more detail. Adding details would help raise the score even more than correcting the grammar and spelling.*

### Opinion Essay 2: My Dream Vacation

Dear mom and dad,  
Aiden and me want to go to Disney World! Weve wanted to go to Disney World for like forever. You said we could sometime. We need to go! Aiden loves Mickey mouse and wants to meet him and see pirats. I want to meet all the people at Disney world, Minnie mouse, Pluto, Donald duck, Goofy, and all the princesses and take pictures with us.  
We can ride the little frog ride and big thunder mounten. They look so fun! Don't worry,they are not dangerus. And then we could do the pirates and the hanted house.  
We could learn at Epcot because you go to other counties, not really but it seems like. They do dances and sing songs. At animal kingdom you can learnn how to take care of animals. They have lots of animals too and a dinasore ride. Thats why we need to go.

Love,  
Caroline

*Annotation: This essay shows a big improvement. The details added to this essay make it more interesting. Developing the ideas even more would improve the essay. For example, the author could describe the rides or tell about one or more countries in Epcot.*

### Opinion Essay 3: My Dream Vacation

Dear Mom and Dad,

Aiden and I really want to go to Disney World! Aiden and I have ALWAYS wanted to go to Disney World, and you said we could go sometime.

We need to go now! We know all the Disney movies by heart. Aiden loves Mickey Mouse, and he had that Mickey Mouse birthday party, so he wants to meet Mickey. We want to meet all the Disney characters, like Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Pluto, Donald Duck, Goofy, and all the princesses in it. We could take pictures of us with them.

We will have so much fun together on the rides and doing the other fun things. I want to ride the Wind in the Willows ride and Big Thunder Mountain. They look so fun! Don't worry. They are not dangerous. And then we could do the pirates and the haunted house.

We could learn a lot at Disney World. I heard that Epcot is like traveling around the world in a day! They have stuff that makes you think you are in France or Italy somewhere. They do dances and sing songs. At Animal Kingdom you can learn how to take care of animals. They have a 3D movie that makes you think there are mice under your seat! Aiden wants to do the Dinosaur ride.

We really need to go to Disney world. Don't you think so? Please?

Love,  
Caroline

*Annotation: The author of the essay has added details about her brother's wish to meet Mickey Mouse. She has also added the names of two of the rides and more details about Epcot. This helps the reader "see" what the author what the author means.*

### Opinion Essay 4: My Dream Vacation

Dear Mom and Dad,

Please just read this before you decide. Aiden and I really, really want to go to Disney World! I know it would cost a lot, and we would miss getting to do all the stuff we usually do at the lake. But Aiden and I have ALWAYS wanted to go to Disney World, and you did say that we could when we were old enough.

We need to go now while we are still young enough to love it. We've watched every single Disney movie made. We know them all by heart! And you know how much

Aiden loves Mickey Mouse! Remember his Mickey Mouse birthday party last year? Just think about how much fun he'd meeting Mickey! We both really want to meet all the Disney characters. Emma got a book with blank pages and all the characters signed on one page. Then she put their picture on the other page. She brought it to school to show us because it is one of her favorite things. I would love to have a book like that! She has Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Pluto, Donald Duck, Goofy, and all the princesses in it. She said she will keep it forever. If I had a book like that, I'd keep it forever, too.

Another reason I think we should go is that it will be a great time for our family. We will have so much fun together on the rides and doing the other fun things. I can't wait to ride the Wind in the Willows ride. It is supposed to be crazy! Big Thunder Mountain is also supposed to be great! It's kind of a train and a roller coaster. But don't worry, it's not dangerous. I also want to see the haunted house. It is supposed to be the best! I don't think Aiden will be scared. It is not that kind of ride.

We also could learn a lot at Disney World. I heard that Epcot is like traveling around the world in a day! They have little shops and restaurants and other things that make you think you are in France or Italy or another country. They even have people play the songs or do dances from that country. We could go to Animal Kingdom and see all the things they have there. They have a place call Conservation Station where you learn how to take care of the animals. They even show you how the doctors take care of the animals. Plus, I want to see the 3D movie Emma told me about that makes you feel as if there are mice under your feet! Aiden wants to do the Dinosaur ride.

As you can tell, we really need to go to Disney world. It will be fun and educational and I know you will like it too. Disney World will be a great trip for our whole family. Please?

Love,

Caroline

*Annotation:* This essay is an excellent example of the kind of development needed in writing. The author has developed each of her main points so that the essay is interesting for the reader. It also makes the reader fully able to understand why Caroline and her brother want to go to Disney World.

**Prompt for Essays 5-8:** Is it a good idea for all young people to have pets? Write an essay in which you state your opinion and support it with reasons. Examples and details will make your essay even better.

#### **Opinion Essay 5: Should All Kids Have Pets?**

Yes, I think all kids need a pet. You could feed it and walk it and play with it. You could learn to take care of it. It will love you. Also it could play with you. It will be happy to see you. It could play ball with you or you could watch it. That's why you need a pet.

*Annotation:* This essay is like a list of reasons to have a pet. The author should use only two or three good reasons. The reasons should be explained with details.

#### **Opinion Essay 6: Should All Kids Have Pets?**

I think every kid should get to have their own pet. This is because kids learn a lot from pets. I have a dog and a gerbil. I have to help take care of my dog, and that means feeding him and letting him outside. I have to take care of my gerbil by myself. I feed it little leaves of lettuce and special food we buy at Target. I also have to clean its cage. I hate that! This is one reason why kids should have a pet. It helps them to be responsible. Another reason to have a pet is that they show you love. My dog loves to curl up beside me when I am watching tv or reading. He likes to be with me, and he is so excited when I come home from school. Who wouldn't like that? My third reason is that pets are fun. My dog and I play outside together. I throw the frisbee and his tennis ball. He is funny. My gerbil is fun to watch when he goes around and around on his wheel or when he hides his food. I guess he thinks I am going to find it and eat it! This is why I think every kid should get to have their own pet.

*Annotation:* Notice that the author uses three reasons in this essay. The author also explains each reason. The author has also included an ending statement, or conclusion.

#### **Opinion Essay 7: Should All Kids Have Pets?**

I think it is important for kids to have pets. First, kids can learn a lot of things from pets. I have a dog named Zoey and a hamster named Max. I have learned how to take care of both of them. I feed Zoey in the morning when I go to school and give her fresh water. I let her outside when I come home, and I sometimes go out and play with her. She has to have fresh food and water every day, and she needs exercise and fresh air. Max has to have the same things. I give him his food and water in the afternoon. I feed it little leaves of lettuce and special food we buy at Target. I also have to clean its cage. I hate that!

He has a little wheel he runs on in his cage for exercise. I have to remember to take care of my pets every day. This is a big responsibility. So that is another thing I have learned. Another reason pets are good is that they are fun. I love to play frisbee and ball with Zoey. She runs fast to catch the Frisbee, and she is really

good! Sometimes, when I throw her tennis ball and she catches it, she rolls over and over down the hill in our yard. It reminds me of a football player dancing after a touchdown! My hamster is fun to watch when he goes around and around on his wheel or when he hides his food. I guess he thinks I am going to find it and eat it!

The third reason to have a pet is that they show you love. My dog loves to curl up beside me when I am watching TV or reading. He likes to be with me, and he is so excited when I come home from school. Who wouldn't like that? Max doesn't show that much excitement when he sees me, but he is always happy. He just digs in his wood chips and runs on his wheel. Just watching him makes me happy. This is why I think every kid should get to have their own pet.

*Annotation: The three reasons given in the last essay are used in this essay. This time the author used even more details to support his/her reasons. The essay is much more interesting. The reader can "see" Zoey the dog and Max the hamster.*

### **Opinion Essay 8: Should All Kids Have Pets?**

I think it is important for kids to have pets. They help kids grow up in many ways.

First, kids can learn a lot of things from pets. I have a dog named Zoey and a gerbil named Max. I have learned how to take care of both of them. Both of my pets have to have food and fresh water every day, and they also need regular exercise. I feed Zoey and give her fresh water every morning before I go to school. I let her outside when I come home, and sometimes I go out and play with her. If I don't play with her, I take her on a walk so that she gets exercise. Of course, Max has to have the same things, even though he lives in a cage. I give him his food and water in the afternoon. I feed him little leaves of lettuce and special food we buy at Target. I also have to clean his cage. Ugh. I hate that! He has a little wheel he runs on in his cage for exercise. It is important that I take care of my pets every day. This is a big responsibility. So that is another thing I have learned.

The next reason pets are good for kids is that they are fun. I love to play frisbee and ball with Zoey. She runs fast to catch the Frisbee, and she is really good! Sometimes, when I throw her tennis ball and she catches it, she rolls over and over down the hill in our yard. It reminds me of a football player dancing after a touchdown! Once when I threw the frisbee too far, Zoey was watching the frisbee and not where she was going. She banged right into the fence. She wasn't hurt, but at first it was scary. When she bounced off and then jumped up after the frisbee, I just laughed and laughed.

Max is fun to watch, too, even if we don't really play together. He is so fun to watch going around and around on his wheel, as if he is really going on a trip or something! Sometimes I'll drop in a peanut or a piece of corn and then watch him scramble to hide it in his wood chips. I don't know why he hides his food. I guess he thinks I am going to find it and eat it!

My last reason to have a pet is that they show you love. My dog loves to curl up beside me when I am watching TV or reading. He always likes to be with me, and he is so excited when I come home from school. He wags his tail so hard his whole body curls back and forth. Who wouldn't like that? Max doesn't show that much excitement when he sees me, but he is always happy. He just digs in his wood chips and runs on his wheel. Just watching him makes me happy.

In conclusion, in my opinion, pets are very important, and all kids should have one. Pets teach kids things like needs and responsibility, they show them love, and they are fun! These are just a few of the reasons every kid should get to have their own pet.

*Annotation: In this essay, the author added a good opening, or introduction. There is also a conclusion that adds closure to the essay.*

*For more examples of student essays, see the Common Core State Standards Initiative site, which includes samples of actual student essays for all three writing genres and for all grades. Each essay includes helpful notes and explanations. The first set of essays is from an on-demand writing assignment. The second set shows a range of writing, usually with one or more short essays and one or more longer ones.  
Link: <http://achievethecore.org/page/505/common-core-narrative-writing>*