**Essay1: Which is Better?**

**Which is Better?**

 Many people have a dog for a pet. Some people have cats. Which is better? I say dog. Maybe you say cat. I just might be able to persuade you in the following.

 Dogs are great companions for lonely people. They can go for a rousing walk in the park or take a good long nap. Playing games of catch or fetch every day makes good fun. Even a jog on the hottest day could be enjoyable, too.

 Dogs don’t just provide fun, though. They can also provide protection. Dogs are very intelligent. They can be trained to find people or save them. Some don’t even need to be trained. For instance, if someone is trying to break in, your dog might bark and scare them off. Dogs are great for many different reasons.

 Overall, dogs are awesome pets to have. Have I convinced you, though? If you are convinced, then great! If you’re not convinced, then that’s okay. It’s really up to you. So which one is it going to be?

**Essay 2: Wow! I Am Glad We Have Zoos!**

**Wow! I Am Glad We Have Zoos!**

 There should be zoos because they save animals and help people learn a lot about animals. Did you know thirty species of animals were saved because of zoos? Zoos give great care that most animals don’t receive in the wild. I am so glad that there are zoos to save animals. What would we do without them?

There should be zoos because zookeepers give so much care to the animals. There are no longer cages, and the fences are hidden, so the animals feel like they're in the wild. Zoos make sure to hide the animals’ food so they can learn to hunt. Sometimes there’s tinted glass so the animals can’t see all the chaos going on. I am so glad the zookeepers give their time to care for the animals. Thank goodness we have zoos!

 Without zoos, a lot of animals could have become extinct. Zoos are trying to solve the problem of extinction, and they’re doing a great job! Animals such as red wolves were saved. Zoos take a male and a female so they can have babies. This makes more animals of its kind. When animals mate in zoos, their babies won’t get diseases from the wild. Zoos are trying to stop extinction, and they’re doing great.

When visiting a zoo, you can learn so much. You are able to see animals from faraway places without paying for a $200 plane ticket. Zoos are a great way to learn and have fun. Not only do the customers learn at zoos, but the workers do, too—about animal behavior and how to make animal habitats better. Thank goodness zoos are here so we can learn a lot about different animals.

 Zoos benefit both people and animals. We could help by going to a zoo and paying a fee to get in. When we do that, all the money goes to the zoo and animals. It is important that we have zoos to help kids learn while they are having fun and seeing the animals in person. With your help, zoos can support a lot of animals. So, with that said, the next time you do not know what to do, go to a zoo.

**Essay 3: The Best Pet**

**The Best Pet**

 Are you looking for a new pet? I'd recommend a cat. For one thing, they aren’t that expensive. You could find one on your porch and adopt it. Cats usually bathe themselves. Cats will sleep with you and can help you calm down when you’re upset or mad. Cats also don’t need training and you can leave cats home for the day. Cats don't need much exercise. So if you are looking for a pet, maybe you can find some cats, and you might find yourself a great pet!

**Essay 4:** **School Year Time**

**School Year Time**

 I do not think school should be year-round. Do you think school should be year-round?

 Without summer vacation, students would not be able to go on family vacations. If a student wanted to go to a sleep away camp, they would not be able to do it. At camp you learn how to do things on your own. If school was year-round, older siblings would not have time to teach younger siblings how to swing or climb trees. Teachers would also not have time for vacation. Even if you are not at school, you can still learn things. Teachers can also learn things outside of school.

 Kids need to get their energy out. They can get it out by doing big races. In summer it is very hot indoors and children would be thinking about outside, and not school. Children usually like warm or hot weather.

 I know that towards the end of the year, I look forward to summer vacation and I think other children do too! If a student wants to learn more things in the summer, they can take classes about that subject. I do not think school needs to be year-round!

**Essay 5**: **Chuck E. Cheese’s**

**Chuck E. Cheese’s**

 Once a year, my family goes to Chuck E. Cheese’s. It’s a popular place. Chuck E. Cheese’s is a nice place to go because of the tasty food and the awesome arcade.

 Chuck E. Cheese’s food is excellent! Their pepperoni pizza is mouthwatering. The salads are great, with diced tomatoes. The selection of veggies is endless and very good. The macaroni has a special ingredient in it. Well, it seems to. The food is scrumptious at Chuck E. Cheese’s.

 While you’re waiting for your food, the arcade makes time fly. You have to buy coins, and each arcade game is only 1 coin. And if you do well, you get lots of tickets to buy fun stuff. So it’s not wasting your money, parents! The motor games, such as the snowmobile, four-wheeler, motorcycle, car, and many more, are great. The arcade is great while waiting for your food.

 Chuck E. Cheese’s is bad for you but is great. I wish I could go there every day! Oh well. It’s fun going to Chuck E. Cheese’s because of the extraordinary food and spectacular arcade. I can’t wait to win some more prizes next year at Chuck E. Cheese’s.

**Essay 6: Dogs are Best**

**Dogs are Best**

Cats and dogs can be very entertaining. But when it comes down to the best pet, I would say the dog.

One reason why I think dogs are the best pets to have is because you can talk to them and they listen to you. You can tell them secrets and how you feel. Kind of like a personal journal, except they actually hear what you’re saying.

Another reason why I think a dog is the best pet to have is because a dog can warn you of danger, and sometimes that danger might be life threatening. So, with a dog, it’s like you have your own danger alarm.

Also another reason why I think dogs are the best pets to have is that they keep you company. They are perfect pets to have if you love company. And with dogs, it’s almost like you are having your best friends over. And better yet, if you own the dog, and it’s a weekday, it’s like your friends are spending the night on a school night.

 Another reason why I think a dog is the best pet to have is because they need to get exercise. You will have to walk your dog every day. So, even if you don’t like to walk, your dog and you will be getting automatic exercise. This will make you and your dog healthier.

 Cats and dogs are very unique in their own fascinating way. But if I had to choose between the both of them, I would go for the dog. Even though dogs require lots of responsibility and need maintenance and training, they are still worth the effort. Most importantly, a dog is like a best friend.

**Essay 7:**

**Homework: How much is enough??**

Recently our class read an article in the “Time for Kids” Magazine. The title was “Too Much Homework!?” and it was about how much homework kids are doing today. It said that 100 years ago, kids never had any homework because they had to work on their farms or do chores for their families.

 But in the 1950’s, American kids began to score really low on math and science tests. Other countries were doing better than we were. Teachers thought that since their students were getting low grades, they should do some homework to practice and catch up to the rest of the world. Since then, students have been getting more and more homework, and it doesn’t look like that is going to change. I think that students should have enough homework, but still have time for fun. So, students in third grade should start having 15 minutes a night and work up to a little over an hour by the sixth grade.

 One reason to have homework is that kids can become more responsible. For example, if someone usually forgets a due date, he can practice remembering and using an assignment book to help him remember his homework. When kids grow up and get jobs, they will have deadlines to meet and homework is good practice for that.

 Another reason to have homework is that a kid can become faster at doing his work. If he needs to practice in multiplication, he can do that at home better than at school. Also, some kids who have big projects or posters would rather work where it is quiet and they can concentrate better. Also, long searches on the Internet are more easily done at home than at school because you can be comfortable at home and you don’t have a schedule to keep.

 These are the reasons why I think students in third grade should start having 15 minutes a night and work up to a little over an hour by the sixth grade. If you agree with what I have said, you should write a letter to A------------- School addressed to the superintendent and principal so she can show it to the School Board. Thank you for your support.

**Essay 8: Harry Potter Books are the Best**

**Harry Potter Books are the Best**

“Obviously, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone should make any kid a very happy reader. The book moves quickly, packs in everything from a Boa constrictor that winks, an owl postal system, and ends with a scary surprise. Yet it is a humorous and witty thriller, interrupted by explorations of friendship, and bravery.

 The book has been around for a long time now which means that it has the power to stay in people’s minds and be enjoyed.

I know that this book is the best because it combines a good story with magic, friends, and adventures that kids like.

**Essay 9: Let's Play and Learn, Not Just Stare at Screens!**

**Let's Play and Learn, Not Just Stare at Screens!**

Hey everyone, listen up! I think there's too much technology in our school, and here's why.

First, we need to use our eyes to look at lots of things, not just screens. When we always stare at computers and tablets, our eyes get tired, and that's no fun. We should use our eyes for looking at cool books, colorful pictures, and our friends' smiling faces too!

Second, too much tech means we miss out on playing games with our pals. Learning is super awesome, but playing is important too. We can learn and have fun at the same time, like playing tag or building cool towers. Let's not forget about those fun games we play during recess!

Third, we can learn in different ways, not just from screens. Sometimes, using our hands to draw or building stuff with blocks is the best way to understand things. It's like having our own special superpowers to learn in a super cool way.

And you know what? Too much tech time means less time for talking with our teachers and friends. Learning is even more fun when we can ask questions and share ideas with our buddies. Let's use our talking power, not just the typing power!

**Essay 10: Global Warning**

 *Deep in the arctic, a mother polar is returning from a long, hard day of hunting. Looking ahead she sees the ice floes she uses to get home are much farther apart. It will be a lot harder to make it home. She jumps in and swims for it, but pretty soon becomes exhausted. Just when she can’t make it any further, another ice floe appears. She barely made it.*

 Sadly, not all polar bears are this lucky. The North Polar ice caps are melting rapidly, causing all sorts of problems needing grave attention. The cause of this problem I can sum up in two words. Global warming. Global warming is caused by carbon dioxide and other air pollution that’s collecting and trapping the sun’s heat. Many of us never dream that little things like driving a car and turning on the lights could be part of the reason this planet is warming up. Scientists believe that U.S. temperatures could be 3 to 9 degrees higher by the end of the century. To make matters worse, global warming doesn’t only affect polar bears, but people and places all over the **world**. It is crucial we take action against global warming and all the issues it has caused before it’s too late.

 Global warming is a huge problem most people don’t seem to be aware of. And the environment is just one of the things changing around us. Things never heard of before are jeopardizing our planet. In 2002, Colorado, Arizona, and Oregon suffered through one of the worst wildfire seasons ever. At the same time, Montana and Texas endured droughts that were creating dust storms. And to add to all these rugged weather changes, just the next year,

2003, extreme heat waves caused more than 20,000 deaths in Europe and more than 1,500 deaths in India. Talk about changing climate!

 And I’m only getting started. Let’s go back to the polar bears. As I briefly mentioned before, in the Arctic and Antarctic dramatic changes are happening. Even though the Arctic is a region meant to stay frozen 365 days a year, the ice cap is melting rapidly. Unless we stop releasing greenhouse gases, the polar ice cap will completely disappear each year during summertime. In the book An Inconvenient Truth, it clearly states, “This is a dangerous situation for all of us, because the Arctic ice cap plays a very crucial role in cooling the entire planet.” We are in a very serious position. **We must stop Global Warming!**

As Al Gore once said, “Each one of us is a cause of global warming, but each of us can become part of the solution…”

It isn’t too late to stop global warming, or at least slow it down a bit. And who better than us, the cause of this awful problem, to do just that?

 Tell me, how often do you use your car? Don’t get me wrong, I don’t want you to stop using it completely, but cars are the 2nd largest source of global warming. Cars burn off tons carbon dioxide. This creates a hole in the ozone layer. Very, VERY strong sunlight shines through the hole, which contributes to global warming.

 One quick and easy way to save money and gas is to carpool with your friends and family. That way instead of the pollution from 2 cars, it will be just one! Or even better, buy a hybrid car! These energy efficient cars have gas electric engines and cut global warming pollution by one third or more—much better then *Hummers* and SUV’s. The popularity of these cars has generated a 20% increase in transportation-related carbon dioxide pollution.

 It’s hard to believe that something as simple as the light bulb could play a major role in global warming. But there is a way to save energy for everything. Instead of picking an incandescent light bulb, choose a compact fluoresant one instead. You’ll lower your energy bill AND keep nearly 700 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the air. How about that, a way to save money, and the environment! Another way to reduce carbon dioxide pollution is to take a chance and try a refrigerator with the Energy Star label. That indicates it uses at least 15 percent less energy than the federal requirement. Try to make everything you do one more step towards solving global warming. Every little thing counts.

 If we want our children to grow up in a carefree, healthy world, we need to start working toward it now. We are not just hurting the earth, but hurting ourselves and the way we live. Some of it we can’t help, but most of it we can and **should** try to change. When so much has already been lost to us, think how life might be in a few years. In the words of Al Gore—

**“It is our only home.**

**And we must take care of it.”**