

Triple Q

Argument Writing for Middle School

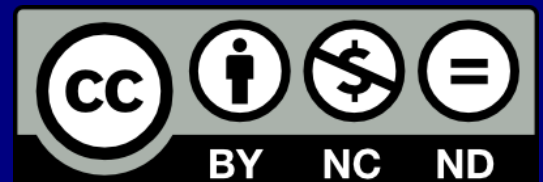
Life at the Zoo

UNIT 3

*What policy should we follow
about caring for and protecting
animals?*

This workbook belongs to: _____

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Argument Writing for Middle School

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Tab 1 – Texts

- Zoos Take Care of Animals
- Are Zoos really good for Animals?
- Assorted Evidence Table



Zoos Take Care of Animals

by Frances Mercer

1 Wildlife is rapidly disappearing, mostly because of
2 human activity. When humans cut down forests and
3 build farms, highways, cities, and shopping malls,
4 animals lose their habitats. They are also threatened by
5 pollution and global warming. As the world population
6 grows, animal extinctions are occurring faster than at
7 any time in Earth's history. But there is hope. Zoos are
8 helping to save endangered animals and their habitats.

9 Zoos provide a safe environment where endangered
10 animals can survive and thrive. In most zoos, animals
11 live in enclosures that closely match their natural habitat.
12 For example, penguins at the Detroit Zoo have over
13 300,000 gallons of very cold water to swim in, with
14 simulated waves, ice, and snow. Enclosures that match
15 their natural habitats allow animals to behave as they
16 would in the wild. Zoos provide for their animals'
17 physical needs, but they are also committed to their
18 emotional well-being. At the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago,
19 scientists measured stress levels in leopards. High stress
20 is associated with problem behaviors like excessive
21 pacing and tail-biting. They found that stress levels
22 decreased when climbing and hiding spaces were added
23 to the leopard enclosures. Both examples demonstrate
24 that zoos work to provide healthy, happy homes for
25 endangered animals.

26 But zoos don't just take care of animals. They also help
27 to conserve endangered species. One important way in
28 which they do this is through captive breeding. Zoos
29 breed healthy populations of endangered animals and
30 then return them to the wild. The Bronx Zoo in New
31 York was one of the first to do this. When the zoo
32 opened in 1899, it featured a small herd of American
33 bison, which were nearly extinct in the wild. Between
34 1907 and 1913, the zoo transferred several small groups
35 of bison to protected areas in the western United States.
36 According to the National Park Service, there are now
37 more than 30,000 wild bison in North America.

38 The National Zoo in Washington, D. C. helps conserve
39 giant pandas. Pandas live in bamboo forests in China,
40 and their habitats are shrinking. This makes it hard for
41 pandas to survive in the wild. Scientists at the National
42 Zoo help coordinate a successful breeding program at
43 zoos and panda reserves around the world. There are
44 now more than 300 pandas in captivity, and more than

45 half are captive-born. Bison and pandas are just two of
46 many species that zoos are helping to conserve through
47 captive breeding.

48 Critics claim that the money spent on captive breeding
49 should instead be used to restore habitats in the wild.
50 In fact, both efforts are needed and often go hand-in-
51 hand. Very few giant pandas have been returned to the
52 wild because their habitats are so small and scattered.
53 The National Zoo is working with the China Wildlife
54 Conservation Association to enlarge and reconnect
55 panda habitats. In addition, the Memphis Zoo is helping
56 to restore a large area between China's largest panda
57 reserve and a patch of forest where wild pandas live.
58 Restoring these habitats may help more captive-born
59 pandas return to the wild.

60 Finally, zoos educate people about endangered animals
61 and inspire them to help. The penguin exhibit at the
62 Detroit Zoo is designed to teach people about the effects
63 of climate change. While visitors are enjoying the
64 penguins, they're also learning about how their natural
65 habitats are threatened by global warming. Moreover,
66 seeing live animals in naturalistic settings makes people
67 want to protect them. A study described in *Zoo Biology*
68 surveyed people before and after visiting a zoo. Results
69 indicate that when visitors feel connected to a zoo
70 animal, they are more likely to participate in efforts to
71 save that species. This shows that zoo animals can
72 inspire visitors to support conservation efforts around
73 the world.

74 Zoos provide a safe haven for animals until they can be
75 released to suitable habitats. In an ideal world, there
76 would be no need for zoos. But in a world where human
77 activity threatens the survival of many species, zoos are
78 a force for good. They protect and care for endangered
79 animals, breed healthy populations of endangered
80 species, and inspire visitors to help save wildlife and
81 their habitats.

Are Zoos Really Good for Animals?

by Samuel Robinson

1 For decades, zoos kept animals in small cages, usually
2 alone and with nothing to do. In those days, animals
3 were easy to obtain in the wild and easy to replace when
4 they died. By the 1970s, however, populations in the
5 wild were decreasing rapidly, and zoos began to focus
6 on conservation. Over the years, they learned to take
7 better care of their animals, and cramped cages were
8 replaced by natural-looking habitats. On the surface,
9 zoos seem to be doing good work. But a closer look
10 reveals that zoos actually do more harm than good.

11 Despite living in enclosures that mimic their native
12 habitats, most zoo animals can't live like they would in
13 the wild. An article in *Zoo Biology* explains that gorillas
14 in the wild spend their days feeding on leaves and vines.
15 In zoos, gorillas are fed primate biscuits, fruits and
16 vegetables. These are higher in calories than what wild
17 gorillas eat. Moreover, because they spend less time
18 feeding, zoo gorillas are less active than wild gorillas,
19 and many become overweight and unhealthy. There are
20 other examples: lions can't hunt, bears can't hibernate,
21 and eagles can't soar. Rob Laidlaw is a biologist who
22 monitors the care that zoos provide. He explains that
23 natural animal habitats are too complex for zoos to
24 match exactly. Both pieces of evidence suggest that zoo
25 life will always be different from life in the wild, often
26 with negative impacts on an animal's well-being.

27 Some animals require more space than a zoo can
28 provide. According to researchers at Oxford University,
29 animals that roam over a large area in the wild do not do
30 well in zoos. They are more likely than non-roaming
31 animals to spend a lot of time pacing, and their babies
32 are less likely to survive. One example is the elephant.
33 Wild elephants roam as much as 30 miles a day, but
34 most zoo elephants are given only a fraction of that
35 space. Not surprisingly, wild elephants live longer than
36 elephants in zoos. A study described in the journal
37 *Science* found that the natural lifespan of elephants in the
38 wild is 56 years, compared to 17 years in zoos. The
39 authors believe that zoo elephants die early because of
40 obesity and stress. Most big cats roam widely, as do
41 polar bears, black bears, wolves, and deer. Many animals
42 in zoos require more space than the zoo can give them.

43 Zoo animals often suffer because of poor management
44 practices. Georgia Mason is a biologist who studies the

45 behavior of captive animals. She says that animals that
46 are poorly managed often exhibit repetitive behaviors
47 that serve no purpose, such as pacing, swaying, and
48 head-bobbing. These behaviors, rarely seen in the wild,
49 indicate that the animal is being neglected or mishandled
50 by its keepers. The practice of transferring animals can
51 also cause suffering. Animals are often transferred from
52 one zoo to another for captive breeding or because a zoo
53 has too many of one species. According to Laurel
54 Braitman, author of *Animal Madness*, being taken from
55 one environment and having to adjust to a new one can
56 be very stressful, especially among animals that form
57 close-knit groups, such as gorillas and elephants. Both of
58 these examples show that poor management practices
59 can cause zoo animals to suffer.

60 Zoos claim to be breeding endangered animals that can
61 be released in the wild. However, animal researcher
62 Benjamin Beck reviewed 145 programs in which
63 captive-bred animals were released in the wild. He found
64 only 16 cases that were successful. Some cases failed
65 because animals were released into an unsuitable habitat.
66 In others, the released animals hadn't learned essential
67 survival skills such as foraging and avoiding predators.
68 Biologist Rob Laidlaw warns that releasing zoo-bred
69 animals in the wild could have disastrous results if the
70 animals carry disease. He says that zoos are potential
71 hotbeds for disease because many animals live close
72 together and there are plenty of rats, mice and
73 cockroaches that carry diseases. Releasing zoo animals
74 in the wild is not a good way to save endangered species.

75 Although zoo animals are displayed in natural-looking
76 habitats, their lives are not natural. Many animals cannot
77 live like they would in the wild, and some require more
78 space than a zoo can provide. Zoo animals often suffer
79 because of neglect or insensitive handling. Things may
80 look good on the surface, but zoos are actually doing
81 more harm than good.

Assorted Evidence

1	The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) grants membership to zoos that have high standards of animal care and are involved in conservation. Although there are nearly 3000 zoos licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), only 233 are members of the AZA.	2	The American Humane Association has started a program to assess the care zoos provide. Zoos are evaluated based on standards for housing, feeding, and animal health and behavior. Zoos that display the "Humane Certified" seal provide a high standard of care.
3	Pittsburgh's National Aviary, a member of AZA, coordinates with zoos from around the world in a program to breed endangered species. Birds at the National Aviary that are part of this program include the Andean condor and the African penguin.	4	The Bronx Zoo's Congo Gorilla Forest exhibit allows zoo guests to donate their admission fees to support conservation. Visitors choose an animal in the Central African rainforest to protect. Options include elephants, okapi, mandrills, and gorillas.
5	In 2014, the Copenhagen Zoo killed a giraffe and four lions that didn't fit their breeding program. People from around the world were outraged. The AZA issued a statement that "incidents of that sort do not happen at AZA zoos." However, a survey described in <i>Zoo Biology</i> reveals that such incidents do occur in some AZA zoos.	6	According to the Humane Society, thousands of animals suffer in roadside zoos. They are often advertised along the highway offering things like elephant rides and photo sessions with exotic animals. The animals in these zoos usually live in cramped, dirty cages with inadequate food, water, and veterinary care.
7	AZA zoos use enrichment strategies to improve their animals' well-being. In the wild, animals must find their own food, water, and shelter. Zoos provide those things, so they use enrichment to encourage natural behaviors. For example, chimps at the Houston Zoo use sticks to collect food from a man-made termite mound.	8	Natural Bridge Zoo is a roadside zoo in Virginia where you can get your picture taken holding a baby tiger for \$50. An undercover investigation by the Humane Society found that some of these cubs were only four weeks old. Cubs were denied food so they would be hungry during photo shoots, and they were punched and slapped when they did not cooperate.
9	Zoo animals can be seriously injured because of unsuitable or unfamiliar enclosures. At the National Zoo, for example, an antelope, a gazelle, and a wild horse died in separate incidents when they ran into the wall of their enclosure. At the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago, a giraffe died when he got tangled in a pulley system.	10	Tamarin monkeys at the National Zoo have a forest area where they learn to move through trees and find food and water. This training helps the monkeys develop survival skills before they return to the wild. The National Primate Research Center notes that almost half of tamarins currently living in the wild are zoo-born monkeys and their offspring.
11	The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee is not a zoo. It is a haven for elephants retired from zoos and circuses. The sanctuary provides 2700 acres where elephants can roam freely and exercise their true nature. It is not open to the public, but visitors can observe via streaming video at www.elephants.com .	12	Zoos are subject to USDA inspections but, according to science writer Brian Palmer, there are only 114 inspectors for nearly 3000 zoos. Moreover, the USDA rules about animal exhibits are not strict. For example, enclosures are only required to be large enough for the animal to stand up and turn around.
13	The International Union for Conservation of Nature keeps lists of threatened and endangered species. Its <i>Extinct in the Wild</i> list currently has 33 animal species, including the Pinzon Giant Tortoise. If zoos don't help these animals survive and reproduce, their species will be gone forever.	14	The Center for Great Apes is not a zoo. It is a sanctuary for chimpanzees and orangutans retired from research labs and the entertainment industry. Located in a tropical forest in Florida, the Center provides 100 acres of space for the apes to run, climb, and swing through their environment.





Tab 2 – Worksheets

- Lesson 1 Quickwrite
- Lesson 2 Quickwrite
- Lesson 4 Quickwrite
- Lesson 5 Quickwrite
- Lesson 6 Making Connections
- Lesson 10 Compare Examples



Name _____

Lesson 1

Quickwrite!

In response to "Zoos Take Care of Animals"

Do you agree with this author about zoos saving endangered animals?
Explain why or why not.



Name _____

Lesson 2

Quickwrite!

In response to both texts

What does each of these authors want you to think about this topic?

Zoos Take Care of Animals
by Frances Mercer

Are Zoos Really Good for Animals?
by Samuel Robinson



Name _____

Lesson 4

Quickwrite!

In response to both texts

What is the most convincing reason each of these authors gave? In your own words, briefly describe each reason and evidence the author provided to support it.

Zoos Take Care of Animals by Frances Mercer

Most convincing reason:

Evidence for that reason:

Are Zoos Really Good for Animals? by Samuel Robinson

Most convincing reason:

Evidence for that reason:



Name _____

Lesson 5

Quickwrite!

I'm Not Convinced

Choose something from one of the texts that did not convince you. Tell the author what was not convincing and explain why you were not convinced.



Name _____

Lesson 6

Making Connections

For each paragraph, write a sentence that explains how the evidence connects to the reason.

First, some zoos have poor management practices, which means the keepers neglect animals or don't handle them right. Biologist Georgia Mason found that zoo animals often pace around, sway their bodies and bob their heads. These behaviors are rarely seen in the wild.

One reason is because some zoos take better care of animals than others. The Humane Society has a program that grades zoos based on how well they take care of their animals. Zoos that provide good care are given a "Humane Certified" seal of approval.

For one thing, when zoos breed animals and release them it causes many problems. Rob Laidlaw is a biologist who monitors zoos. He says that zoos are hotbeds for disease because animals live close, and there are plenty of rodents and insects that can spread diseases.



Name _____

Lesson 10

Compare Examples

Circle or highlight the best paraphrase in each pair.

Assorted Evidence #7

AZA zoos use enrichment strategies to improve their animals' well-being. In the wild, animals must find their own food, water, and shelter. Zoos provide those things, so they use enrichment to encourage natural behaviors. For example, chimps at the Houston Zoo use sticks to collect food from a man-made termite mound.

Enrichment is a strategy zoos use to improve animals' well-being. Zoos provide animals with food and shelter, so they use enrichment to encourage natural behaviors.

Some zoos try to provide conditions that are more natural. For example, the Houston Zoo gives their chimps sticks so that they can collect their own food from a termite mound.

Assorted Evidence #4

The Bronx Zoo's Congo Gorilla Forest exhibit allows zoo guests to donate their admission fees to support conservation. Visitors choose an animal in the Central African rainforest to protect. Options include elephants, okapi, mandrills, and gorillas.

The Bronx Zoo allows visitors to donate their admission fees to help protect animals in the rainforest.

The Bronx Zoo's Congo Gorilla Forest Exhibit allows visitors to donate their admission fees to support conservation. Visitors can choose animals such as elephants or gorillas.

CON Text, Lines 61-67

Animal researcher Benjamin Beck reviewed 145 programs in which captive-bred animals were released in the wild. He found only 16 cases that were successful. Some cases failed because animals were released into an unsuitable habitat. In others, the released animals hadn't learned essential survival skills such as foraging and avoiding predators.

According to animal researcher Benjamin Beck, releasing zoo animals in the wild is rarely successful. In many cases, the released animals died because they didn't know how to find food or avoid predators.

Benjamin Beck studied programs in which captive-bred animals were released in the wild. He found that only 16 out of 145 cases were successful.

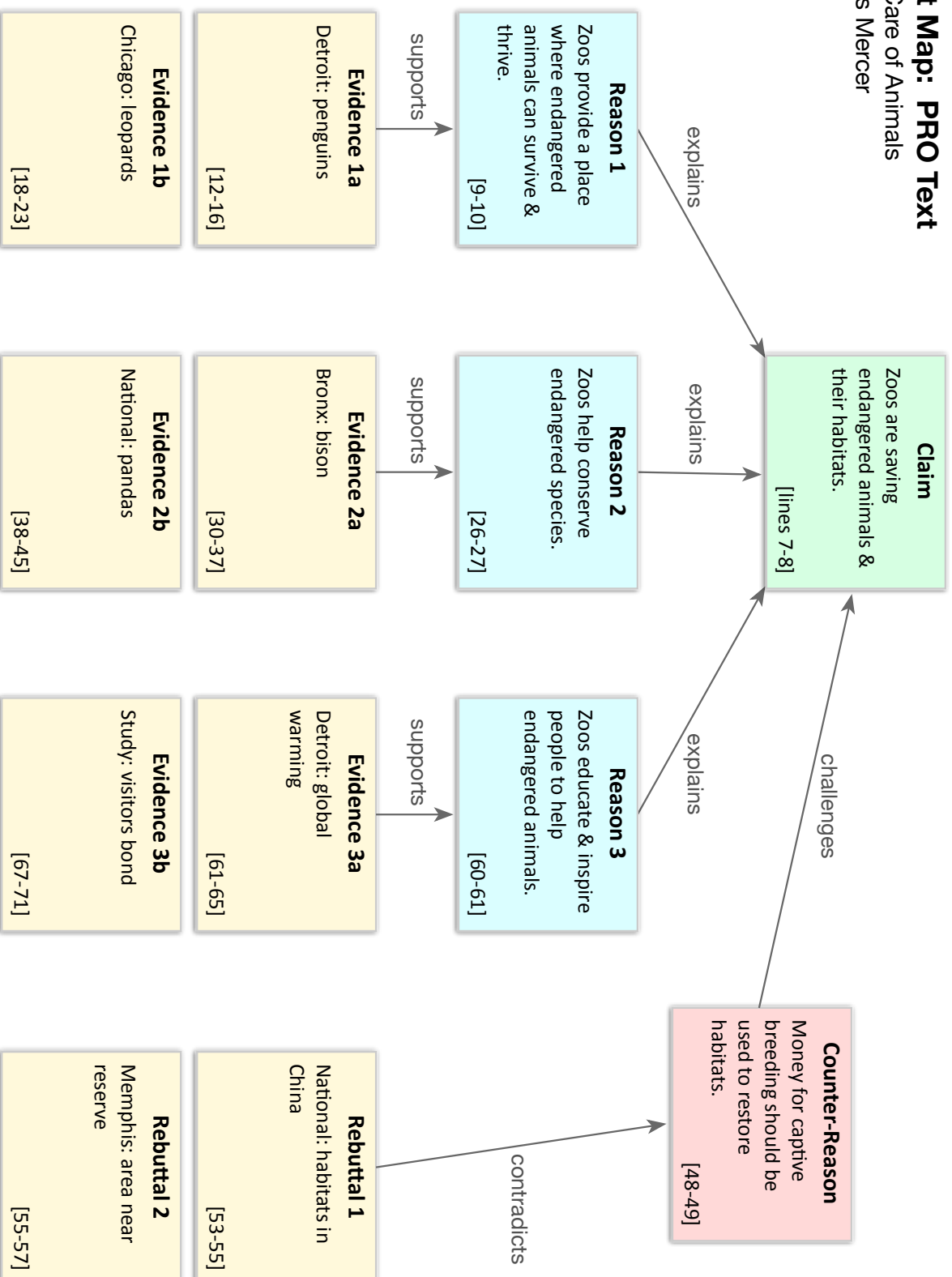


Tab 3 – Argument Maps

- Map of PRO text:
Zoos Take Care of Animals
- Map of CON text:
Are Zoos really good for Animals?



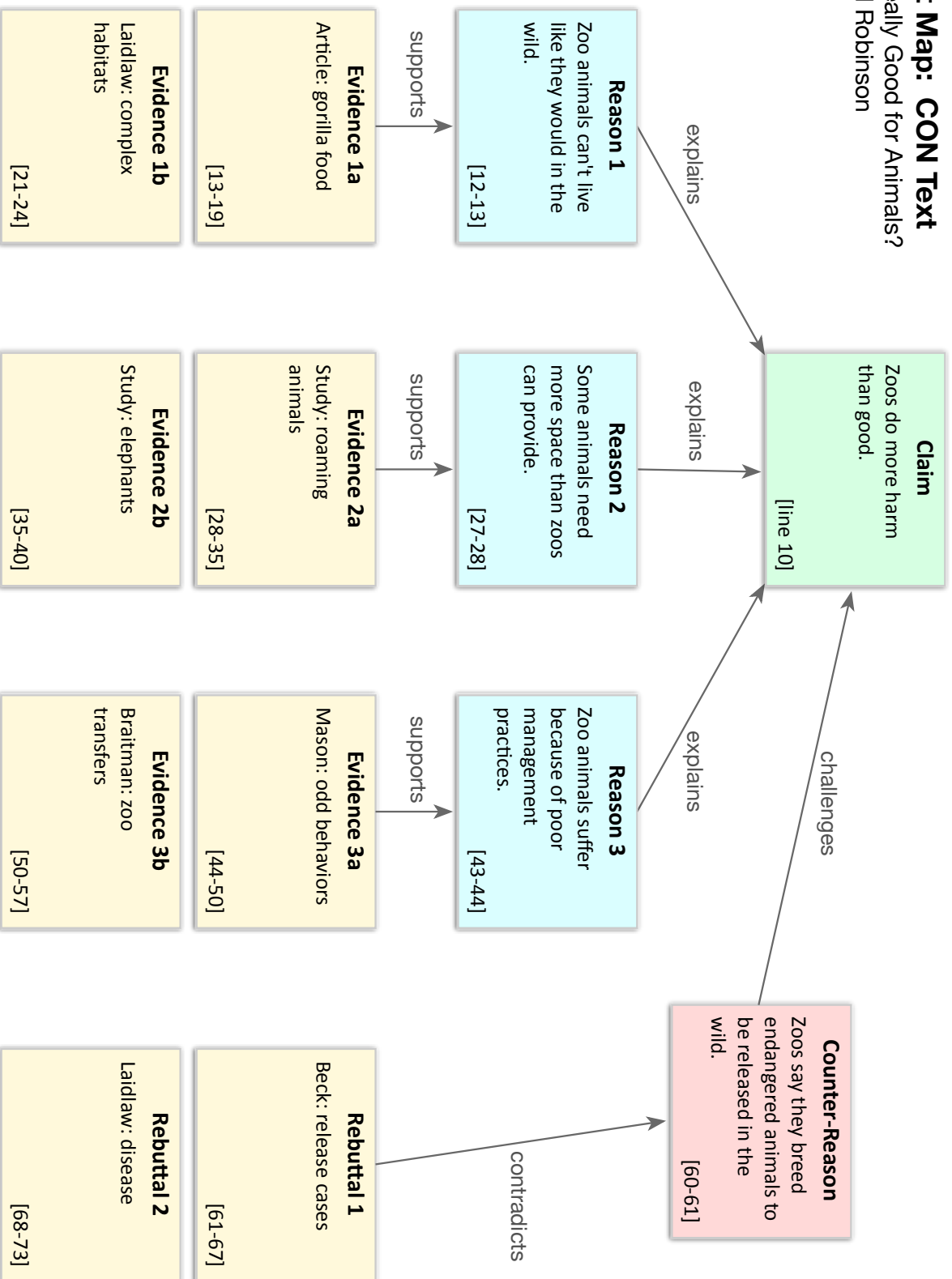
Argument Map: PRO Text
 Zoos Take Care of Animals
 by Frances Mercer





Argument Map: CON Text

Are Zoos Really Good for Animals?
by Samuel Robinson





Triple Q

Argument Writing for Middle School

Tab 4 – Planning your essay

- Essay Criteria
- Outline Template
- Peer Feedback 1
- Peer Feedback 2



Life at the Zoo

Extended Writing Task: Argument Essay

Essay prompt:
What policy should we follow about caring for and protecting animals?

Your score will be based on the following criteria:

Claim	Your claim is clearly stated and it responds to the prompt
Reasons	You include three different reasons why you believe your claim
Evidence	Each reason is supported by at least one piece of evidence
CR/Rebuttal	You include a counter-reason that goes against your claim and a rebuttal that shows that the C-R is false
Conclusion	Your essay ends with a conclusion that connects back to the claim
Signal Words	You use signal words to help readers follow the logic of your argument
Organization	Your essay has paragraphs that organize your argument

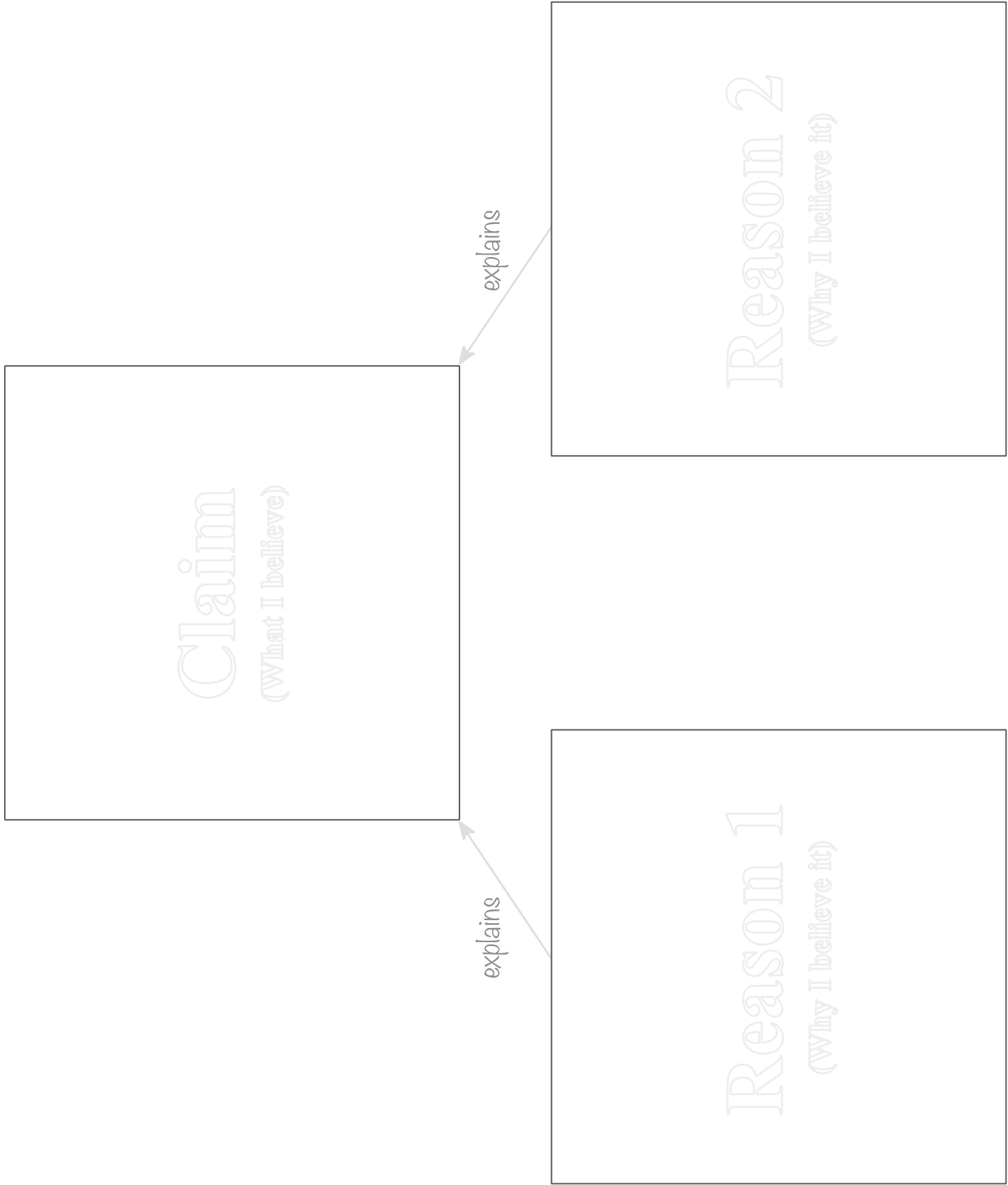
Bonus points will be awarded for:

- originality of ideas



Outline Map on Back →





supports

Evidence 2a

(How I know it's true)

Evidence 2b

(How I know it's true)

supports

Evidence 1a

(How I know it's true)

Evidence 1b

(How I know it's true)

← Outline Map on Front



Counter-Reason
(A reason that goes against my argument)

challenges claim

goes against

Rebuttal a
(How I know it's false)

Rebuttal b
(How I know it's false)





explains claim

Reason 3
(Why I believe it)

supports

Evidence 3a
(How I know it's true)

Evidence 3b
(How I know it's true)



PEER FEEDBACK I

- Read the author's claim and provide feedback by writing comments that answer the questions below.
- Write your comments on a post-it and place it on the author's outline near the claim.
- Add your initials to the post-it so your partner will remember who wrote it.
- Honest feedback can help your partner improve their essay.

Essay prompt: **What policy should we follow about caring for and protecting animals?**

Question 1 – Do you understand exactly what the claim is saying?	
If your answer is:	You could write something like:
yes	Your claim is clear.
kind of	Try to make your claim a little clearer.
no	I don't understand your claim.
Question 2 – Does the claim address the prompt?	
If your answer is:	You could write something like:
yes	Addresses prompt.
no	Does not address prompt.
Question 3 – Can the claim be supported by text evidence?	
If your answer is:	You could write something like:
yes	Easy to support.
kind of	Might be hard to support.
no	Will probably be hard to support.



PEER FEEDBACK 2

- Examine the author's outline and write comments that answer the questions below.
- Write your comments and your initials on post-its and place them on the author's outline.
- Honest feedback can help your partner improve their essay.

Essay prompt: **What policy should we follow about caring for and protecting animals?**

Question 1 – Is there a clearly stated claim that addresses the prompt?	
If your answer is:	You could write something like:
yes	Your claim is clear and it addresses the prompt.
no	Try to make your claim clearer; Your claim does not address the prompt.
Question 2 – Are there three different reasons that clearly explain why the author believes the claim?	
yes	Your reasons explain your claim.
no	Missing a reason; This reason isn't clear; This reason doesn't explain your claim.
Question 3 – Is there at least one piece of text evidence to support each reason?	
yes	You have text evidence to support each reason.
no	Missing text evidence for this reason; This evidence isn't clear; This isn't text evidence.
Question 4 – Is there a counter-reason that goes against the claim?	
yes	You have a counter-reason that goes against your claim.
no	Missing a counter-reason; Your counter-reason doesn't really go against your claim.
Question 5 – Is there a rebuttal that shows the counter-reason is false?	
yes	Your rebuttal shows your counter-reason is false.
no	Missing a rebuttal; Your rebuttal doesn't really show your counter-reason is false.



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Tab 5 – Writing your essay

- Teacher’s Model Draft
- Self Checklist
- Draft paper
- Sample Marked Essay
- Scoring Rubric
- Final essay paper



Teacher's Model Draft

One reason animals should not be kept in zoos is because even the best

zoos cannot adequately care for some animals. For example, zoos can only

provide a fraction of the space elephants use in the wild. A study described in

"Science" found that zoo elephants die young, probably due to stress and obesity.

Similarly, a "Zoo Biology" article says that zoo gorillas have a less healthy diet

and get less exercise than they would in the wild. These are two examples of how

even good zoos cannot always provide their animals with good care.

Zoos claim to be saving endangered species through captive breeding

and release. However, in her book "Animal Madness," Laurel Braitman says that

zoo transfers for captive breeding can be very stressful for animals that have to

move. Furthermore, biologist Rob Laidlaw points out that releasing zoo animals

risks spreading diseases that could wipe out populations in the wild. Both

rebuttals show that zoos are harming rather than saving endangered animals.



SELF CHECKLIST

Author _____

CLAIM

- yes no Do you state a claim?
- yes no Is it clear?
- yes no Does your claim respond to the writing prompt?

REASONS

- yes no Do you have three reasons?
- yes no Do they explain why you believe the claim?
- yes no Are your reasons different from each other?

EVIDENCE

- yes no Do you support each reason with text evidence?
- yes no Are your sources given?
- yes no Do you have different evidence for different reasons?
- yes no Do you explain how your evidence supports its reason?

COUNTER-REASON

- yes no Do you have a counter-reason that goes against your claim?
- yes no Is it clear?

REBUTTAL

- yes no Do you have a rebuttal?
- yes no Are your sources given?
- yes no Do you explain how your rebuttal shows the counter-reason is false?

CONCLUSION

- yes no Do you have a conclusion?
- yes no Does it connect back to the claim?

LANGUAGE & ORGANIZATION

- yes no Do you use signal words to help readers follow your argument?
- yes no Do you use paragraphs to organize your argument?

What are you doing in your essay to make sure your argument will be convincing to your readers?



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Sample Marked Essay

C

Zoos should continue their efforts to care for and protect animals.

E1a

One reason is because Pittsburgh's National Aviary works with zoos to breed endangered birds like the Andean condor. Another reason is because zoos

R2

make visitors want to help endangered species. At the Bronx Zoo, people can

E2a

donate their ticket fee to protect animals in the Central African rainforest.

R3

A third reason is that zoos are restoring habitats in the wild. The Memphis Zoo

E3a

is helping to restore a habitat for giant pandas near a panda reserve in China.

E3b

In addition, zoos use enrichment to teach behaviors animals need in the wild.

Both pieces of evidence show that zoos are helping animals return to the wild.

C-R

Critics claim that zoo animals can't live like they do in the wild.

reb

However penguins at the Detroit Zoo have tons of water to swim in, and ice and snow to slide on. This shows that zoos provide habitats where animals can live

conc

naturally. In conclusion, zoos should continue their excellent work.



Argument Essay Scoring Rubric – Unit 3

Claim	
2	Your claim is clearly stated and it answers the writing prompt.
1	Your claim addresses the topic, but it is not clear or it does not answer the prompt.
Reasons	
2	You include three different reasons that explain why you believe your claim.
1	You have only one or two reasons, or your reasons are very similar or do not connect to your claim.
Evidence	
2	For each reason, you include at least one piece of evidence that clearly supports the reason.
1	You support one but not all of your reasons with text evidence, or your evidence does not clearly support a reason.
Sources	
2	You provide complete and accurate sources for all or most of your evidence.
1	You provide sources, but most of your sources are vague, incomplete or inaccurate.
Connections	
2	You include sentences that explain how evidence connects to a reason or how a reason connects to your claim.
1	You try to explain connections, but your explanations are vague, unclear, or inaccurate.
Counter-Reason & Rebuttal	
2	You include a counter-reason that goes against your claim and a rebuttal that goes against the counter-reason.
1	You include a counter-reason and rebuttal, but your rebuttal supports the counter-reason rather than arguing against it.
Conclusion	
2	Your essay ends with a conclusion that connects back to your claim.
1	Your essay ends with a conclusion, but it is unclear or simply restates your claim.
Signal Words	
2	You use signal words to help readers follow the logic of your argument.
1	You include signal words, but you use them incorrectly.
Organization	
2	Your essay is divided into paragraphs, and each paragraph has just one big idea.
1	Your essay is divided into paragraphs, but you have a paragraph with multiple reasons or a reason and counter-reason.
Originality of Ideas (bonus)	
2	Your argument is different from the unit texts. Your reasons might be original, or you might use evidence in an original way.
1	Part of your argument is original, but one or more segments are very similar to a unit text.





