**Opinion Writing: K-5 Student Samples from the *In Common* Collection**

*Note: The following pieces were written after reading or listening to informational text about dogs and cats as pets. Students responded to the prompt: “Which is the best pet, a dog or a cat?” The stimulus text and full prompt for each grade level, as well as annotated versions of each of the pieces below are available at* [*www.achievethecore.org*](http://www.achievethecore.org)*.*

**File Name: OKP The Best Pet**

**Opinion**

**Kindergarten, Fall**

**On Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt**

**The Best Pet**

MKIECYKDBbD

*I like my cat because they are better than dogs.\**

*\*dictated response*

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**File Name: OKP Dog is the Best**

**Kindergarten , Spring**

**Opinion**

**On Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt**

Dog is the Bst Becs thea BuRc.

*Dog is the best because they bark.*

**File Name: O1P A Dog is Best**

**Opinion**

**Grade 1**

**On Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt**

**The Best Pet**

**Which kind of pet is best, a cat or a dog?**

I used to have a dog and I thinck a dog is best.

A dog becas its cute and it likes to Play and its snuggly and it likes to choo bones.

A dog is best because of theese reasons.

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**File Name: O2P Dogs Rule**

**Opinion**

**Grade 2**

**On-Demand Writing, Uniform Prompt**

Dogs rule

What pet is best for you cat or dog? I like dogs beacause they exercise a lot. Also they play fetch with you. They are fun to play with. Thats why I like dogs best.

**File Name: 03P The Best Pet**

**Opinion**

**Grade 3**

**On Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt**

**The Best Pet**

Are you looking for a now Pet? I'd rekomend a cat. For one thing they aren't that egspensev you could find one on your porch and aboped it. Cat's yushely baeth them sellf. Cat's will sleep with you and can help you cawlm down when you'r upset or mad. Cat's allso don't need training and you can's leave cats home for the day. Cat's don't need much exercise. So if you are looking for a pet maeby see some cat's and you mite find your self a great pet!

**File Name: O4P Which is Better**

**Opinion**

**Grade 4**

**On Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt**

**Which is Better?**

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

Dogs are great companions for lonely people. They can go for a rousing walk in the park, or a good long nap. Playing games of catch or fetch every day makes good fun. Even a jog on the hottest day could even 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, then great! If your not then thats okay. It's really up to you. So which one is it going to be?

**File Name: O5P Dogs are Best**

**Opinion**

**Grade 5**

**On Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt**

**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 a dog is the best pet 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 your saying.

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

Also another reason why I think dogs are the best pets to have is because they keep you company. They are perfect pets to have if you love company. And with a dog, its almost like you are having your best friends over. And better yet, if you own the dog, and it’s a weekday, its 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 excersise. 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 excersise. Which will make you and your dog healthier.

Cats and dogs are very unique in their own fastenating way. But to choose between the both of them, I would go for the dog. Even though dogs require lots of responsibilities, and need maintenence and training, they are still worth the effort. But most importantly, they are like a best friend.