



GRADE 5 LITERACY: TCRWP NONFICTION
READING AND OPINION/ARGUMENT WRITING
STUDENT WORK SAMPLES

**TCRWP Nonfiction Reading and Opinion/Argument Writing
Annotated Student Work
Student A**

Scaled Score—Level 4 (Above Proficient) Writing, Level 4 (Above Proficient) Reading

5th Grade Writing Sample

Even though zoos aren't a perfect solution, we should support zoos because they help protect endangered animals. Sometimes animals are in trouble in the wild. They don't have enough to eat, or they are endangered.

Sometimes endangered animals are in trouble in the wild because there isn't enough to eat. For example, Tom French, who won a Pulitzer Prize as a journalist, studied elephants in many zoos, and he wrote a book about them. It's called *Zoo Story*. It turns out that there are too many elephants in South Africa. There isn't enough food for them and there isn't enough food for the rhino, because the elephants eat all the trees. So when elephants get moved to zoos, it might save their lives and it might help some other animals too. Tom French shows that in good zoos like the one in San Diego, there are clinics with experts who will care for the elephants. The article says "the animal clinic at the San Diego Zoo was better than any hospital in Swaziland."

Another thing that zoos help with is breeding endangered animals. One Fox News program showed how local zoos can help breed endangered animals and then set them back in the wild. That seems like a good idea. If we could use zoos to breed these animals, and then put them back in the wild, maybe they wouldn't be endangered.

On the other hand, animals in zoos don't always live a long time. They seem to live a lot longer in the wild. But the chart that shows how long elephants live in the wild is only counting the elephants who live at all. It doesn't count the ones who die of starvation because there are no trees, or the ones who get shot by poachers. Tom French shows that's what happens to lots of elephants. You might worry about zoochosis, too. That's when animals get lonely and sad in zoos. But it sounds like the San Diego zoo takes good care of its elephants. And it's probably pretty lonely when you face a poacher who wants your tusks.

Overall, it seems like zoos are a good idea, as long as they take good care of the animals. They can rescue endangered animals, and they can breed them so they won't be so endangered. It would be even better if we could stop destroying their land. But since we're not endangered, that's probably not going to happen.

**TCRWP Nonfiction Reading and Opinion/Argument Writing
Annotated Student Work
Student A**

5th Grade Reading Summary Sample

The Swazi Eleven says that elephants are endangered in the wild and are a danger to other animals. Tom French, an expert, researched elephants for six years. He found they kill the trees in South Africa so there isn't enough to eat. They are starving. The rhinos are also starving because there are too many elephants. It seems like poachers are a problem too.

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**TCRWP Nonfiction Reading and Opinion/Argument Writing
Annotated Student Work
Student B**

5th Grade Writing Sample

People are wondering if animals are better off in the wild, or in zoos. Well I think animals should be in the wild!

I think animals should be in the wild because sometimes the animals aren't as free. In the article "Zoochosis" it said "Animals kept in cages were grabbing onto the bars and shaking them" also "If you could look into the animals eyes, you would have seen deep sadness!" This shows that animals are better off in the wild, because they aren't as free!

Another reason why animals are better off in the wild because of their life spans. For the African Elephants, in the wild they are 56 years, but in zoos it's 17 years. For the Asian Elephants it's 42 years in the wild, and in the zoos it's 19 years! This proves that animals are better off in the wild...

In conclusion this proves that animals live better in the wild than the zoos!

TCRWP Nonfiction Reading and Opinion/Argument Writing
Annotated Student Work
Student B

5th Grade Reading Summary Sample

Summary of "Swazi Eleven"

Mike and his dad was doing a really nice thing for the elephants. They're taking them to the zoo where they can be more safe!

But then someone said, it's not a good idea to bring them to the zoo. But Mike fought back saying that they were ruining the trees and the grass! So finally they agreed, that 4 elephants were going to Tampa in the Lowrey Park Zoo and 7 of them were going to headed San Diego! So that way the 11 elephants are going to be put into zoo's.

**TCRWP Nonfiction Reading and Opinion/Argument Writing
Annotated Student Work**

Scaled Score—Level 2 (Intermediate) Writing, Level 2 (Intermediate)
Reading

5th Grade Writing Sample

I think, in my own opinion, that zoos should stay, only if they have endangered animals in their. Not animals that are healthy.

I say that because their once was a whale, killer whale, named Junior. He was removed from his habitat in Iceland and placed in a tank in niagra falls. He died four years later. He DIED. Before any of this happend.

Also, sometimes when animals have this disease called zoochosis, which is what happend to Junior, they start to strange things. Like continuously running around in circles, moving their head and neck around, and tearing holes in their own skin.

Can you imagine being so miserable that you want to inflict harm on yourself?

Please, dont do such things like this

TCRWP Nonfiction Reading and Opinion/Argument Writing
Annotated Student Work
Student C

5th Grade Reading Summary Sample

The Swazi Eleven

That the place the elephants
were going to which by the way
is to the animal clinic in the San
Diego zoo. better than any hospital
in Swaziland.



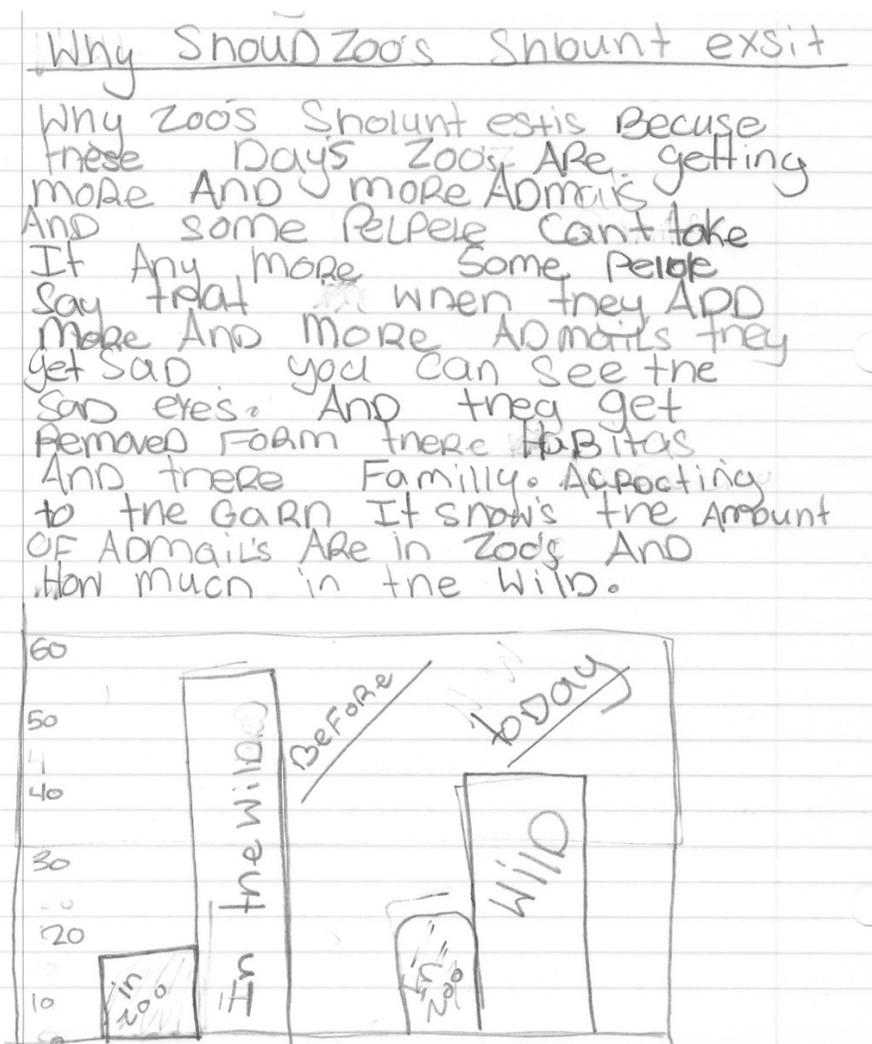
airplane
the animals
were restless
hungry
but better
off where they
they were
heading.

Zoo offered to pay \$12000 for
each elephant.

**TCRWP Nonfiction Reading and Opinion/Argument Writing
Annotated Student Work
Student D**

Scaled Score—Level 1 (Novice) Writing, Level 1 (Novice) Reading

5th Grade Writing Sample



**TCRWP Nonfiction Reading and Opinion/Argument Writing
Annotated Student Work
Student D**

5th Grade Reading Summary Sample

The Swazi Eleven
The story was mostly about
nick and about the zoo about
saveing elephants and about saveing
them I think that's inportant
that's what I think is really inportant
and micking with her family
its really inportant to charter
like wishing not to be a zoo
sometimes animals feel bad.