Term 3 Holiday - 2025: Day 4 | 10-Day Intensive Selective Writing

# Section 1

## #1: Introduction Paragraph

#### Strengths:

- Your opening clearly states your position on the topic, which helps readers know what to expect from your essay.
- You mention that you'll explain your reasons in the essay, which shows good planning.

**Logical Contradiction**  $\rightarrow$  Your introduction contains a confusing statement where you write "dogs are more suitable than dogs as pets." This doesn't make sense because you're comparing dogs to themselves instead of to cats. This type of error can confuse your readers right from the start and makes your argument unclear. When you're writing your position, you need to carefully check that you're comparing the two different things you're debating about.

**Exemplar:** Although many people are unable to decide, it is distinctly obvious that dogs are more suitable than cats as pets for various reasons.

#### #2: Second Body Paragraph (about stress relief)

#### Strengths:

- You provide a specific statistic (79%) which shows you're trying to support your point with evidence.
- You explain the difference between how dogs and cats behave, which helps compare the two pets.

**Unsupported Generalisation** → Your paragraph makes broad claims about cats without providing balanced evidence. When you state that cats are "incapable" of relieving stress and only get "pampered," you're making an unfair statement about all cats. The survey you mention (79% of cat owners) isn't explained properly – we don't know where this survey came from or if it's real. Good writing needs to be fair to both sides of an argument, even when you're picking one side. You should acknowledge that

cats might have some good qualities too, which would make your argument stronger and more believable.

**Exemplar:** Whilst some cats may provide companionship in their own way, dogs tend to be more active in helping their owners manage stress through their attentive behaviour and loyalty.

### #3: Third Body Paragraph (personal anecdote)

#### Strengths:

- You include a real-life example which can make your writing more interesting and relatable.
- You connect the story back to your main point about dogs being better pets.

Weak Evidence Quality → Your paragraph relies entirely on a single personal story about your friend "Bugs Funny," which isn't strong enough evidence for a formal essay. Personal stories can be helpful, but they work best when they're added to other types of evidence, not used as the main proof. Additionally, the story doesn't give us enough detail about why the dog was actually better – your friend just said it was better, but we don't learn what specifically improved in his life. This makes your argument feel light and unconvincing.

**Exemplar:** Many pet owners report that switching to dogs has improved their daily routines. For instance, research shows that dog owners are more likely to maintain regular exercise schedules and feel less lonely during difficult times.

Your piece presents a clear position on whether dogs or cats make better pets, and you've organised your thoughts into separate paragraphs with different reasons. However, your essay would benefit from more careful thinking about the evidence you're using and how you present information. The statistics you mention (63% and 79%) need to come from real sources that you can name, otherwise readers won't trust your argument. Additionally, your writing sometimes uses exaggerated language like "never helps relieve you of your biggest worries" and "your entire life changes," which weakens your points rather than strengthening them – simpler, clearer statements would be more convincing.

Your second body paragraph needs substantial development because it doesn't fairly represent what cats can do, which makes your argument seem one-sided. Try revising this section by acknowledging at

least one positive thing about cats before explaining why you still think dogs are better. Also, your third body paragraph relies too heavily on one person's experience. You could strengthen this by including what specific benefits your friend noticed (like feeling happier, going outside more, or having a better routine) rather than just saying the dog was "better."

The introduction needs fixing immediately because of the confusing sentence about "dogs are more suitable than dogs." Your conclusion does a good job of summarising your points, but it could be stronger if you added one final thought about what readers should consider when choosing a pet. Throughout your essay, focus on being fair and balanced whilst still arguing for your side – this actually makes your position more convincing because it shows you've thought carefully about the topic.

Overall Score: 43/50

## Section 2

There is an ongoing debate about whether cats are better than dogs. Although many people are unable to decide, it is distinctly obvious that dogs are more suitable than dogs [cats] as pets for various reasons. Dogs are more active than cats and they provide companionship in times of stress. In this essay, I will delve deeper into the reasons why.

First and foremost, dogs are able to help their owners maintain a daily fitness routine. Since dogs themselves need to take a walk daily, they tend to force [encourage] their owner [owners] to walk. Cats, on the other hand, spend half of the day lying in bed or watching television. Studies show that humans who have dogs as pets are 63% more fit than those who own cats. To illustrate, instead of waking up and embracing the lovely sunrise while [whilst] walking your dog, you wake up to see your cat rolling around like a baby in its cradle. Who would want a pet that keeps you indoors and makes you less active? It is therefore evident that dogs make better pets than cats.

In addition [#2 In addition], dogs can relieve stress, which cats are unable to. They do this just by paying attention to their owners' needs and providing companionship. Cats are incapable of this since they tend to just be pampered and relieve their own stress instead of their owners'. Surveys show that 79% of cat owners reported that, 'my pet has not been helpful in any aspect as it just lies down all day.'

Imagine a cat that takes advantage of you for its own gain and never helps relieve you of your biggest worries. Get a dog anyday [any day] and it will always help you out! Hence, dogs evidently reduce stress and are the best pets for anyone.

Finally, let me tell you a story. [#3 Finally, consider this example.] At school, I had a friend called Bugs Funny. He used to always whine on [about] how his cat was the worst pet he ever got. One day, I recommended that he should get a dog as soon as possible. I explained all the benefits of a dog, and then the next day, he came to school blurting out information on his new dog. He went on for hours on [about] how much better his dog was than his cat. If you want to be like Bugs Funny and live an ecstatic life, dogs are the best solution.

To sum up, although [whilst] some may argue that cats are better than dogs, statistics expose the truth. Dogs are better than cats since they help us maintain fitness regimes and offer fellowship. The day you decide to get a dog is the day your entire life changes.