

Section 1

#1: "Dogs are better than cats because they provide stronger emotional bonds, greater usefulness, and deeper human connections, proven by science and real-world application."

Strengths:

- Your opening sentence clearly states your main argument and gives readers three specific reasons why you believe dogs are better companions.
- You mention that your claims will be backed up by science and real examples, which helps build trust with your readers.

Unclear Purpose of Opening → Your first sentence tries to do too much work at once. When you list three separate ideas ("emotional bonds," "usefulness," and "human connections") right at the start, it becomes confusing because readers don't yet know what you mean by each term. Additionally, "human connections" and "emotional bonds" sound very similar, making readers wonder if you're actually giving them three different reasons or just repeating the same idea in different words. A stronger opening would introduce your main point clearly, then save the specific reasons for later paragraphs where you can explain each one properly.

Exemplar: *Dogs make better companions than cats, offering unique benefits that improve our daily lives and wellbeing.*

#2: "A 2021 study published in PLOS One found that dog owners were significantly more likely to report higher life satisfaction and lower levels of loneliness than cat owners. As anyone struggling with mental health can understand the comfort of a loyal dog curled up beside them after a long day."

Strengths:

- You include specific research from a real scientific journal, which strengthens your argument with evidence.

- You connect the research to a real-life example that many people can relate to, making your point more meaningful.

Sentence Fragment → Your second sentence beginning with "As anyone struggling..." is incomplete. A complete sentence needs a subject doing an action, but this sentence starts with "As" and never finishes the thought. It's like starting to say "When I went to the shop..." and then stopping without explaining what happened next. This type of error is called a sentence fragment, and it makes your writing feel unfinished. You can fix this by either joining it to the previous sentence with a comma, or by rewriting it as a complete sentence on its own.

Exemplar: *Anyone struggling with mental health can understand the comfort of a loyal dog curled up beside them after a long day.*

#3: "According to the American Kennel Club, dogs can be trained to perform over 50 different tasks, including guiding the blind, alerting deaf individuals, and even detecting medical conditions like low blood sugar or seizures. Cats, while independent, lack this versatility."

Strengths:

- You provide a specific number (50 tasks) and concrete examples that help readers understand exactly what you mean.
- You fairly acknowledge that cats have their own quality (independence) even whilst arguing for dogs.

Weak Connection Between Ideas → Whilst you list impressive tasks that dogs can do, you don't explain why these abilities actually make dogs "better" companions for most people. Most dog owners don't need their pets to detect seizures or guide them if they're blind, so your readers might wonder how this information relates to their own lives. Your argument would be stronger if you connected these special abilities to everyday situations. For example, you could explain how the trainability that makes service dogs possible also makes regular pet dogs easier to live with, or how the loyalty that drives working dogs also makes them better family companions.

Exemplar: *This remarkable trainability doesn't just help people with special needs—it also makes dogs wonderful family pets who can learn house rules, follow commands, and adapt to their owners' routines.*

■ Your piece presents a clear argument with good use of evidence from research and examples. You've organised your ideas into separate paragraphs that each focus on a different benefit of dogs, which helps readers follow your thinking. However, your writing would benefit from developing your ideas more fully in each section. Right now, you state facts and evidence but don't always explain why those facts matter to your argument. For instance, when you mention that dogs were domesticated 20,000 years ago, you could strengthen this by explaining how this long history has shaped dogs' special ability to understand human emotions and needs. Additionally, your paragraphs sometimes feel rushed, jumping from one point to the next without giving readers time to understand the connection. Try adding one or two more sentences to each paragraph that explain your thinking. For example, after mentioning the study about dog owners having higher life satisfaction, you could add a sentence explaining what it is about dogs specifically that creates this effect. Also, pay attention to sentence variety—some of your sentences are quite short and choppy, whilst others are very long. Mixing different sentence lengths would make your writing flow more smoothly and sound more natural when read aloud.

Overall Score: 38/50

Section 2

#1 → ~~Dogs are better than cats because they provide stronger emotional bonds, greater usefulness, and deeper human connections, proven by science and real-world application.~~ **[Dogs make better companions than cats, providing benefits proven by both scientific research and real-world experience.]** Emotionally, dogs have been shown to reduce stress, anxiety, and depression more effectively than cats. A 2021 study published in PLOS One found that dog owners were significantly more likely to report higher life satisfaction and lower levels of loneliness than cat owners. #2 → ~~As anyone struggling with mental health can understand the comfort of a loyal dog curled up beside them after a long day.~~ **[Anyone struggling with mental health can understand the comfort of a loyal dog curled up beside them after a long day.]**

~~Logically~~ **[Practically]**, dogs offer more ~~practical~~ benefits. #3 → According to the American Kennel Club, dogs can be trained to perform over 50 different tasks, including guiding the blind, alerting deaf individuals, and even detecting medical conditions like low blood ~~sugar~~ **[glucose]** or seizures. Cats, while independent, lack this versatility. ~~This clear difference appeals to dogs actively improve their owners' safety and independence.~~ **[This versatility means that dogs can actively improve their owners' safety and independence in ways that cats simply cannot.]**

From an ethical and credibility standpoint, [,] dogs have **long-standing** relationships with humans based on mutual work and loyalty. According to Smithsonian Magazine, dogs were domesticated as far back as 20,000 years ago to assist humans with hunting and protection. Their role as service animals, police dogs, and search-and-rescue partners continues today.

In short, dogs don't just live with us—[;] they serve, support, and connect with us in ways cats rarely do. That's what makes them the better companion.