

## Why dogs are better than cats

Dogs are often called "man's best friend" and make ideal pets.	<i>Introduction</i> Background Thesis statement
The most attractive quality of a dog is its faith in its owner and its loyalty. They always greet us when we come home and they will never leave us even in a dire situation. For example there was a very sick man and the dog barked and barked until the rescue team arrived.	<i>Argument 1</i> Topic sentence Supporting sentences
Furthermore dogs are strong animals that will protect us. Houses with dogs are considered much safer than even those with burglar alarms. Not only will they stop thieves, but they will also guard against fire. For example there was a serious fire and a dog managed to pull its owner out.	<i>Argument 2</i> Topic sentence Supporting sentences
And finally dogs can be trained to help people. Dogs can do a number of things that people can not. For example they can sniff out drugs, find bodies, illicit DVDs and hunt down prisoners. They're also used to help the elderly and disabled.	<i>Argument 3</i> Topic sentence Supporting sentences
To sum up, dogs are really friendly, civilized and loyal companions.	<i>Conclusion</i>

## Teaching Ideas

### Introducing the Text

- You could cut the document up into a jigsaw and ask students to put it into order (Discard the clues in the 2<sup>nd</sup> column).  
Keywords: The most / Furthermore / And Finally / To sum up
- Another idea would be to remove the 2<sup>nd</sup> column and ask students to highlight key structures.  
Structures: Introduction, Thesis statement, topic sentences, supporting sentences & the conclusion
- It could simply be used as an example of an argumentative essay for students to note the structure and how it is put together.

### Debate Follow up

Encourage one team to support cats and the other team to support dogs.

### Writing Follow up

Here are some writing essays that could be set:

- Write the opposite viewpoints. Cats are better than dogs.
- Write other pet essays such as: Hamsters / Parrots / Monkeys / fish
- A more modern Essay would be cyber-pet Vs a real pet.

### Cultural Sensitivity

Please be aware that some branches of Islam discourage the ownership of dogs. Interestingly this does not seem to effect Muslims from most Middle Eastern countries.

### About the Essay

This essay was written as a class effort to show the format of an argumentative essay with ideas coming in from the students and me typing them as they came in.