Snake or Mouse?

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Opinion writing tells what **you think** and **why**. Use **OREO**: state your **O**pinion, give **R**easons, add **E**xamples, then say your **O**pinion again.

Opinion words: *I think ... I believe ... In my opinion ... because ... For example ... That is why ...*



1. Fact or opinion?

Strong opinion writing uses facts as evidence. Circle **fact** or **opinion**.

1. Snakes shed their skin as they grow. — fact / opinion
2. Snakes are the coolest pets. — fact / opinion
3. Mice are mammals with fur. — fact / opinion
4. Mice are cuter than hamsters. — fact / opinion
5. Some pet snakes eat mice. — fact / opinion
6. A snake would be scary to hold. — fact / opinion

2. Opinion and reason

Circle the best answer.

1. Which sentence states a clear opinion?

a. In my opinion, a mouse would make a better pet than a snake.
b. Mice have tails.
c. Snakes are long.

2. Which reason uses a fact?

a. Snakes are weird.
b. A snake only needs to eat about once a week.
c. I like snakes.

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3. Plan with OREO

Prompt: Which would make a better pet: a snake or a mouse? Plan your answer.

O – Opinion: what do you think?

R – Reason 1

E – Example for reason 1

R – Reason 2

E – Example for reason 2

O – Opinion again

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4. Write your opinion paragraph

Use your OREO plan.

Prompt: Which would make a better pet: a snake or a mouse?

Check: ☐ Clear opinion ☐ Two reasons ☐ An example for each ☐ Linking words ☐ Opinion restated at the end

Answer Key

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1. Fact or opinion?

1	Snakes shed their skin as they grow.	**fact**	opinion
2	Snakes are the coolest pets.	fact	**opinion**
3	Mice are mammals with fur.	**fact**	opinion
4	Mice are cuter than hamsters.	fact	**opinion**
5	Some pet snakes eat mice.	**fact**	opinion
6	A snake would be scary to hold.	fact	**opinion**

2. Opinion and reason

1. Which sentence states a clear opinion?

- **a. In my opinion, a mouse would make a better pet than a snake.**
- b. Mice have tails.
- c. Snakes are long.

2. Which reason uses a fact?

- a. Snakes are weird.
- **b. A snake only needs to eat about once a week.**
- c. I like snakes.

3. Plan with OREO

Sample notes. Answers will vary.

O – Opinion: what do you think?
A mouse would make a better pet.

R – Reason 1
Mice are friendly and playful.

E – Example for reason 1
My cousin's mouse climbs onto her hand and runs through tubes.

R – Reason 2
Mice are easier to feed.

E – Example for reason 2
They eat seeds and vegetables, not other animals.

O – Opinion again
That is why a mouse is the better pet.

Model Answer

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4. Write your opinion paragraph

A model answer to share with students. Their writing will be different.

In my opinion, a mouse would make a better pet than a snake. First, mice are friendly and playful. For example, my cousin's mouse, Pip, climbs onto her hand and races through the tubes in his cage. Another reason is that mice are easier to feed. They eat seeds, grains and bits of vegetables, but many pet snakes need to eat whole mice. That is why I think a mouse is the better pet.