**Idea Development in Persuasive Writing**

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| **Writing Situation:** Cats and dogs are popular pets. Which is better?**Writing Task**: Write an essay for your class newspaper in which you discuss your opinion on whether cats or dogs make the best pets. |

Cats and dogs can be very entertaining. However, when it comes down to the best pet, I would say the dog. You can talk to them, they warn you of danger, and they are great for helping you get exercise.

One reason why I think a dog is the best pet to have, is because you can talk to them and they listen to you. I love to tell my dog secrets, and talk about how I feel. He is kind of like a personal journal, except he can actually hear what I am saying. **Did you know that scientists have done research about dogs and how they reduce stress in people? One study showed a 35% decrease in men’s blood pressures after they got a dog.**

**Statistic**

Another reason why I think a dog is the best pet to have is because dogs can warn you of danger. Sometimes that danger might be life threatening. A dog is like you have your own danger alarm. Looking back, I remember a time when a stranger pulled into my driveway and my parents were not at home. My dog, Charlie, barked so loud it scared the guy away. **Insurance companies will even lower your rates if you have a good guard dog. Some places will cut up to $20 a month off your home owner’s policy.**

**Statistic**

A dog is the also the best pet to have is because they need to get exercise and this will help you get exercise, too. You will have to walk your dog every day. This means that even if you don’t like to walk, your dog and you will be getting automatic exercise making you and your dog healthier. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Statistic**

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Cats and dogs are very unique in their own fascinating way. Nevertheless, to choose between the both of them, I would go for the dog. Even though dogs require lots of responsibilities, and need maintenance and training, they are still worth the effort. They give you someone to talk to, warn you of danger, and help you get some much needed exercise. Most importantly, thought, they are like a best friend.