

## Written Persuasive Task (Administered to Grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)

“The Circus Controversy”

Time: 5 minutes of planning after instructions

20 minutes of writing after planning

Materials: Students are provided a set of the instructions below and can make notes on the sheet prior to beginning the essay.

General Instructions: You should read the prompt (what is in bold) to the students. Please do not modify the instructions.

**People have different views on animals performing in circuses. For example, some people think it is a great idea because it provides lots of entertainment for the public. Also, it gives parents and children something to do together, and the people who train the animals can make some money. However, other people think having animals in circuses is a bad idea because the animals are often locked in small cages and are not fed well. They also believe it is cruel to force a dog, tiger, or elephant to perform certain tricks that might be dangerous.**

**I am interested in learning what you think about this controversy and whether or not you think circuses with trained animals should be allowed to perform for the public. You have 5 minutes to write some notes on the instructions to help you plan your paper.**

*Wait 5 minutes*

**Now, I would like you to spend the next 20 minutes writing an essay. Tell me exactly what you think about the controversy. You may use your notes that you just wrote. Give me lots of good reasons for your opinion.**

**Please do your own work and don't share ideas with your neighbors. Be sure to double space your essay. Also, please use your best writing style, with correct grammar and spelling, and good handwriting. If you aren't sure how to spell a word, just take a guess. Do you have any questions?**

*Wait 20 minutes*

*Gather up the writings and place them back in the envelope.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Planning Sheet for “The Circus Controversy”**